Seek brilliance

(Continued from page 4)

ity of MIT, but is then forced to take Physics I (8.01), General Chemistry (3.01), Calculus I (18.01), and a humanities subject. He is warned by upperclassmen of the dangers of not specializing, of not majoring in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He is not given a chance to study the development of science and technology until after he has made his career decision. Quickly, he is set upon a path of study from which there is little diversion, a list of subjects in which there is little creativity. Each year over a thousand new individuals come to MIT. A number of these people are creative geniuses who have always dreamed of being in a place of unlimited learning potential. A somewhat larger number of those entering MIT have the potential for becoming this sort of individual but have never been in an environment conducive to creative exploration.

If students who are intuitively brilliant, and concentrate on things they enjoy, the resulting sustained explosion of brainpower will be felt not only by themselves, but by those around them. Everyone in the community benefits.

The Admissions Office is currently doing its job well. The problem lies not in admissions, but in what happens to these people after they get here. Admissions is looking for and accepting those applicants in which they see a creative spark. Admissions people are excited about the new freshmen classes. They see people who really care about art, literature, music, science, and inquiry.

These freshmen do not lose these qualities, they simply develop a psychic split between academic and extracurricular. They segregate their creativity and diversify interests from their academic and degree plans. It is not the students' fault; this is what MIT encourages them to do. The artificial distinction between "sciences" and "humanities," with students frequently majoring in a science and concentrating in a humanity on the side embellishes this viewpoint.

Do not make progress for progress's sake

To the Editor:

This is a challenge to the world's students and teachers in the fields of science and technology, a challenge to reevaluate their roles in the shaping of the future, and the social responsibility that is connected with this role. As a time when the future holds the possibilities of great improvement as well as further deterioration of the state, of society, and the world as a whole, it is important that all of us realize the extent of our responsibility for this future.

"Progress" seems to be the central theme that binds together all facets of technology from its beginning to this day. It is for progress that we expend our efforts; for progress we work to gain new knowledge and skill in our respective fields of study. The idea behind this is that progress is by definition good because it represents an advancement of understanding and a new ability to manipulate and control some aspect of our world, which in turn will improve the quality of life for humankind as a whole. In addition, technological progress satisfied human curiosity and provides a means of making a great deal of money through the marketing of new concepts and realizations.

Oh, the whole, technological progress is today moving and accelerating more rapidly than ever before. To keep track of this progress itself is extremely difficult; to adequately understand and predict its implications for the earth's future is far more difficult still. And yet this is of the greatest importance. It is no longer possible to ignore the social and ecological aspects of technological advance; science and technology are directly intertwined with the "rest" of life on this planet. Engineering problems and scientific discoveries can no longer be treated as though they existed in a vacuum, even though it may often be tempting to do so.

The most important challenge that scientists and engineers face today is the cultivation of a new sensitivity to and awareness of the relationship between their work and the future of this planet and its inhabitants. Without this sense of responsibility among those who work directly with this technology, there is a great danger of blind "progress for its own sake," of progress that may be unnecessary or even harmful. The long-range social and ecological effects of today's technological decisions cannot be ignored until they become crises at some point in the future. These choices must be made today, and the responsibility for making them correctly lies to a large extent with those who chose to apply their abilities to modern science and technology.

What is actually called for here is a serious re-examination of the individual's role in the determination of things they enjoy, the

Looking for the excitement of a high quality graduate school research environment?

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas is a major center for research in Biomedical Sciences. Opportunities are available in highly individualized graduate research training programs with an outstanding faculty of over 250 investigators. Attractive stipends are available.

Areas of specialization include:

- Biochemistry
- Molecular Biology
- Pharmacology
- Biophysics
- Immunology
- Physiology
- Cell Biology
- Microbiology

For further information contact:

J. T. Stut Ph.D. Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences University of Texas Health Science Center 5323 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75235 Phone: 214/820-3313

VERMONT IS SKIING

With each stride new woods unfold before you. Cross-country or Alpine, there's so much more to skiing Vermont. Send for our free brochure and see what we mean. State of Vermont, Dept. EZ, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Please send:

- Alpine Ski Guide
- Inn & Full Resort
- Hotel & Motel

I will be in Vermont:

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ____________________________
Mail: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Zip: ____________________________

Editorial Feature

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1983

VERMONT IS SKIING

With each stride new woods unfold before you. Cross-country or Alpine, there's so much more to skiing Vermont. Send for our free brochure and see what we mean. State of Vermont, Dept. EZ, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Please send:

- Alpine Ski Guide
- Inn & Full Resort
- Hotel & Motel

I will be in Vermont:

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ____________________________
Mail: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Zip: ____________________________

VERMONT IS SKIING

With each stride new woods unfold before you. Cross-country or Alpine, there's so much more to skiing Vermont. Send for our free brochure and see what we mean. State of Vermont, Dept. EZ, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Please send:

- Alpine Ski Guide
- Inn & Full Resort
- Hotel & Motel

I will be in Vermont:

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ____________________________
Mail: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Zip: ____________________________

Editorial Feature

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1983

VERMONT IS SKIING

With each stride new woods unfold before you. Cross-country or Alpine, there's so much more to skiing Vermont. Send for our free brochure and see what we mean. State of Vermont, Dept. EZ, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Please send:

- Alpine Ski Guide
- Inn & Full Resort
- Hotel & Motel

I will be in Vermont:

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ____________________________
Mail: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Zip: ____________________________

Editorial Feature

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1983

VERMONT IS SKIING

With each stride new woods unfold before you. Cross-country or Alpine, there's so much more to skiing Vermont. Send for our free brochure and see what we mean. State of Vermont, Dept. EZ, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Please send:

- Alpine Ski Guide
- Inn & Full Resort
- Hotel & Motel

I will be in Vermont:

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ____________________________
Mail: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Zip: ____________________________