Column/Charles P. Brown

CAP routinely hears petitions

Second in a series.

The most common petitions are for adding and dropping classes, for permission to complete incompletes, for changing classes from grades to pass/fail, or vice versa. If a student has already received an administrative neglect, the committee will usually reject his second petition. The only case I remember in which the committee granted approval for dropping a course after Drop Date for a "personal emergency" was when a student said he followed the Drop Date listed on the LSC calendar, which was one week later than the actual date.

The CAP chairman usually grants an administrative neglect for a first request to add or drop a subject. If a student has already received an administrative neglect, the committee will usually reject his second petition. The only case I remember in which the committee granted approval for dropping a course after Drop Date for a "personal emergency" was when a student said he followed the Drop Date listed on the LSC calendar, which was one week later than the actual date.

The one type of petition that stands almost no chance of being approved is a request to change a subject from grades to pass/fail, or vice versa. Fortunately, MIT students have an alternative. The Hayden Gallery, located in Building 14, houses over a million pieces of art owned directly by the gallery or purchased through donations. The picture of this collection, after their brief display, is raffled off to members of the MIT community for the academic year. There's no cost to the student, save the care and maintenance of the painting, and the aesthetic value returned is fantastic. The works are returned in the spring and the process repeats the next year.

I had not known of the Hayden Gallery nor of this program before coming to MIT. I read about it one Sunday in the Boston Globe. Coming from a background where art was found at every corner, (my grandfather was an artist and my parents collected abstract art), I found the institute white walls in my own mind for culture. The Hayden Gallery program provides a unique opportunity for the student to become acquainted with the world of art at absolutely no cost. My heartfelt commendations.

But enough of this high culture business; the issue at hand is ugly art at MIT. I admit I'm no big fan of the Great Salt, nor the pictures in front of the Alumnae Pool, but I do try to keep things in perspective. The MIT campus is unique in every sense of the word. We have:

• a tall slender building with a gold ball on top
• a auditorium whose shape correlates hardly with my calc

luc professor's description of an eighth of a sphere

• a dormitory, designed by some obscure European architect, whose bricks are sacrificial stones

• a building on the east side of campus whose front funnels together like the bow of a ship

• a dorm that looks like a medieval castle

• a main complex of buildings with eaves and housetops, arches, and tall columns

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