Opus, Bill the Cat, Steve and Oliver

Penguin Dreams and Stranger Things, a new Bloom County book by Berke Breathed. 120 pages, $6.95.

If MIT has a second mascot it may very well be a penguin. Berke Breathed's cartoon characters seem to have captured the imagination of the MIT campus. His cartoon strips appear on many Institute doors and figures of Bill the Cat and/or Opus appear on a good number of posters around campus.

Breathed's new book is jam-packed with a compilation of comic strips which have appeared in the newspapers since the publication of his last book, "Toons for Our Pines.

If you follow Bloom County faithfully you will not find much new material in this book. In fact the only material in this book that has been published before are the front and inner covers and a six-page "Mi- lio's Album" which contains eight hand-drawn "snapshots" of the Bloom County characters in their native habitat. Even these new drawings, however, only echo scenes from the strips in the book and aren't in Breathed's usual high humor.

The rest of the book is extremely funny, though, and can be accurately described as the best of Bloom County. The individual strips that make up a single story can be read in rapid succession instead of daily installments. The "Bill the Cat for President" campaign seems to be present in its entirety. Another feature of the book is the full color pages. Thirty-two Sunday episodes are presented in color. Printed on high-quality paper, they are more enjoyable than the oft-misprinted "Sunday Funnies" in the newspaper.

Opus looks for his mother, Steve Dallas competes for the position of Mister America, and Oliver Wendell Jones continues to make hacking a way of life throughout, making this a most enjoyable book to read.

Ronald Becker