Getting bald at Berkeley

To anybody who remembers me:

Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated. I'm really alive and semi-

happily, living in Northern Califor-

nia where the streets are lined with
gold 130 years ago. The mines have
closed, and the town has more people
doing the Bay Area people seem more heterogeneous, more "American" than people in Massachusetts.

But, of course, I don't really live in

the Bay Area so much as on the fringe of the University of California campus.

"As we call it, differs from MIT

mainly in its abundance of undergrad-

uates. There are a lot of graduate stu-
dents, too, but they are far outnumbered

by the undergrads. This made it all

the harder for me to adjust years ago —
going from being younger than 50 percent of the students at MIT to being only 75 percent of them at Berkeley.

Growing old in graduate school was

something I was always afraid of at MIT,

where seeing older people, aging graduate students around was really depressing.

I have these vivid memories of the Bald

Graduates Students Dance Club (BGSDC)

in La Sale de Puerto Rico where all these

bald graduate students would hold hands in a circle and count clockwise or
counter-clockwise, depending on how

difficult the weather. So, instead of declin-
ing into their condition. When my baseline

recorded a little in my senior year, I natu-

rally became a little fearing of going to graduate school.

For the last year, my job of part-time

recruiter forced me to come here anyway. And now that I'm 50, well, maybe it's

me, but the graduate students don't seem

so old. It's the undergrads who seem to be changing — getting younger.

Anyway, the city of San Francisco reminds me of Woodstock, VT. It's not

anywhere near the size of any other large city I've visited.

Instead, it feels like a small town or village

everywhere, though, San Francisco has porno-
movieographic movie theaters, which seem to be all over the place and not confined to a

few blocks as in the Combat Zone. Every

time you turn around there is a sign for

"Joe's Seafood Restaurant and Pier Show" or "Chinese Dancing and Laius or Massage Parlor" or "Goddie's Car Wash

topped female attendants (vacuuming

etc.). The whole place has sex on its col-

lapse much mind more than Massachu-

setts. I've never been to San Francisco, but here, the girls are even younger than the

natives.

You'll all be happy to know that MIT has a really good reputation amongst

Berkeleyers. Whenever I wear my MIT

brand new shirt around the dorm, it draws stares and

comments from foreign students who

think MIT is up there with Harvard and

Stanford. The American grad students are a little less impressed. "Yeah, I could

gone there, but it's a real high-pressure j

ampus there, isn't it?" they say. "Besides

— I object. And the cost of living is really

high there," they say. "Yeah, right, people

speak of it as if it was a nursing home.

"And everybody's bald at MIT, aren't

they?" they say. "Yeah, I guess so. I'm

forced to concede.

But MIT does provide a great pick-up

line with "Hey, wasn't Harvard or some

room and look at my brass ring? hu-

ilarly usual respond with a comment abou

thing it is called "rubber" (a California expre-

sion) measured at the heab.

Speaking of newspapers, there are three

main papers in the area, all of which are

opposed so we can accurately present the

cents of the Globe. The San Francisco Examiner is

trying to get out the facts, and the New

daily paper, the Chronicle, which looks like it is being "rubbered" (a California expres-

sion) measured at the heab.

When it comes to campus demonstra-

tions, the Berkeley students are less

interested in them than any other place I know of. They haven't had their own best year at the

university here, but the ones the others have had are still better than anything in my last 5 years at MIT. Almost every weekend (except to Table on the weekends) you can go down to the plaza, center of campus to have a

lunchtime, and if they're not having a mini-revolution there, they're discussing someone in cardboard. The gives the University an added dimension which MIT never had. So, I don't think even though every student thinks he or she has been to Berkeley, they probably will go on their own to

courage to make fools of themselves in

Watch for my soon-to-be-published autobiography "Portrait of a Grad Stud-

ent as a Bald Man." Maybe on the promo-

tional tours I can swing by Boston and

convert me for the next time on being

Then, until then, hang in there.

(Editor's note: The Tech received this col-

umn from Mr. Day, 1985, who was an

editor of Volume 104. He is no longer in the United States, but I still

would appreciate your in-

terest, even if you don't read our campus paper. He is one of those who worked on the Tech before it was

published.)

As the undergraduate student represen-

tatives to the CUP, we are seeking student

opinions on some changes in the graduate
to the undergraduate forum in the

Talbot Lounge of East Campus at 9 pm on Sunday, Jan. 19, 1986 to get stu-

dent input. If you have concerns about

any facet of the MIT undergraduate ed-

ucation, now is the perfect time to express

them. If, however, you are unable to attend the meeting, we would still appreciate your

input. You may write to G. Bein '87, At-

tention Graduate Student forum, 331 Mill,

Cambridge, MA 02139. Thank you in ad-

ance for your participation.

To the Editor:

Recently one of the most important

topics of discussion at MIT has been the

issue of curricular reform. Since the

meetings held at Woodstock, VT, this past sum-

mer, fundamental change in the outlook of the

MIT education has become a very real

possibility.

During this past term the Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP) has

been familiarizing itself with some of the

important issues facing MIT, and it is

currently looking at the fundamental ob-

jectives and characteristics of an MIT

undergraduate education. On Monday and

Tuesday, Jan. 27 and 28, the CUP will be

holding intensive meetings to focus on its

goals and set an agenda for the coming

year. The three main goals of Discus-

sion will be the nature and character of an MIT

undergraduate education in broad terms, the relative priority of various educational

areas such as various faculty commitments

and on-campus life, and the relevancy and
effectiveness of current learning styles and

forms.

The goals agreed upon at these meetings will set the tone for the work done by

the CUP during the coming term and very

possibly for years to come. Therefore,

now is the time when student input will
have the maximum effect on the work done

by the CUP.