

opinion

feedback

Editorials, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of **The Tech**. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors and opinion editors.

Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the undersigned members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and *editorial cartoons* are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the Editor are welcome. They must be typed double spaced and addressed to **The Tech**, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of **The Tech**. **The Tech** reserves the right to edit or condense letters. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

TheTech

Volume 107, Number 2 Friday, February 6, 1987

Publisher Michael J. Garrison '88
Editor in Chief Earl C. Yen '88
Business Manager Mark Kantrowitz '89
Managing Editor Ben Z. Stanger '88
Production Manager Ezra Peisach '89

News Editors Andrew L. Fish '89
 Akbar A. Merchant '89
Night Editor Halvard K. Birkeland '89
Opinion Editor Sharalee M. Field '89
Arts Editor Peter E. Dunn G
Photography Editors David M. Watson '88
 Kyle G. Peltonen '89
Contributing Editors V. Michael Bove G
 Julian West G
 Simson L. Garfinkel '87
Senior Editors Carl A. LaCombe '86
 Sidhu Banerjee '87
 Stephen P. Berczuk '87
 Andrew S. Gerber '87
Indexing Project Representative Sharalee M. Field '89

NEWS STAFF

Associate News Editors: Robert Adams '90, Niraj Desai '90, Michael Gojer '90, Jai Young Kim '90; **Senior Writers:** Salman Akhtar '89, Anuradha Vedantham '89; **Staff:** Katherine T. Schwarz '86, Harold A. Stern '87, Joel H. Friedman '88, Derek T. Chiou '89, Mary Condello '89, Jeffrey C. Gealow '89, Marcia Smith '89, Sally Vanerian '89, Christopher P. Colby '90, Desmond Davis '90, Sarita Gandhi '90, Kenyon D. Potter '90, Robert E. Potter II '90, Paula Maute. **Meteorologists:** Robert X. Black G, Christopher A. Davis G, Michael C. Morgan '88.

OPINION STAFF

Richard A. Cowan G, Thomas T. Huang G, Scott R. Saleska '86, Carol Shiue '90.

SPORTS STAFF

William Hou G, Paul Paternoster '88, Jerome G. Braunstein '89, Anh Thu Vo '89.

FEATURES STAFF

V. Michael Bove G, Kevin J. Burns '79, Jim Bredt '82.

ARTS STAFF

Michiel Bos G, Barbara A. Masi G, Jonathan Richmond G, Joseph L. Shipman '82, Scott Lichtman '88, Julie Chang '89.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Ronald E. Becker '87, Jerry Broda '87, Rich R. Fletcher '88, Michael W. Halle '88, Kim A. Kellogg '88, Mark S. Abinante '89, Susan K. Fatur '89, Tom Coppeto '89, Terry P. Higgins '89, Steven Y. Kishi '89, Salma I. Saeed '89, Isaac L. Chuang '90, Lissette W. Lambregts '90, Mike Niles '90, Mark Virtue '90; **Darkroom Manager:** Steven Y. Kishi '89.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Accounts Manager: Shari L. Jackson '88; **Past Due Accounts Manager:** Genevieve C. Sparagna '90.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Illy King '89, Joyce Ma '89, Marie Coppola '90, Jigna Desai '90, Julia Drewry '90, Jeeyoon Lim '90, Daniel Peisach '90, David B. Plass '90, Stacy A. Segal '90; **Supplies Manager:** Andrew S. Gerber '87.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Night Editors: Halvard K. Birkeland '89
 Mark Kantrowitz '89
 Ezra Peisach '89
Associate Night Editor: David B. Plass '90
Staff: Harold A. Stern '87, Michael J. Garrison '88, David M. Watson '88, Earl C. Yen '88, Andrew L. Fish '89, Marie E. V. Coppola '90, Mark Virtue '90.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer for \$14.00 per year Third Class by **The Tech**, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Room W20-483, Cambridge, MA 02139-0901. Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: **The Tech**, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139-0901. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 1987 **The Tech**. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.

Residents oppose MIT Simplex plan

To the editor:

As MIT's "University Park" development plans become public, some questions have come up about why the people of Cambridge are opposing the project.

More than anyone, we want to see the area developed. We live here. But there are serious questions about the plan that MIT's developer, Forest City Department, has proposed. We have expressed our concerns again and again, but we have been ignored and our criticisms misrepresented. Accordingly, we wish to state our case briefly to the MIT community in this letter.

We object because the plan is too big to construct adjacent to a residential community. It contains over 3.5 million square feet of primarily research and office space and parking garages, in some 20 large structures. Forest City, in its 1986 environmental impact report, admits that the plan will cause serious problems in the areas of traffic, noise, and air pollution, and will strain the capacity of utilities and city services such as water and sewer system.

We object because there is nowhere near enough housing in the plan. Forest City is considering building just 110 new units of housing, a quarter of which would be "affordable." Yet, the recommendations of three recent studies call for at least 200 to 450 new housing units on the site. There is no student housing of any kind proposed. And, since 1969, MIT's Real Estate Department has purchased and removed nearly all of the housing on the 31-acre tract; now they say that the community surviving on the site is "incompatible" and must also be levelled. In a city with an acknowledged housing crisis, this policy cannot be called progress.

In addition, over 1000 industrial jobs have been lost to the community since 1969, as a consequence of MIT's aggressive policy of buying and removing local businesses. University Park offers the neighbors no blue collar work to replace what MIT has taken.

We object because the plan can devastate by displacement of the three surrounding residential neighborhoods. The thousands of new people that the development is hoped to attract will demand local housing and will be able to outbid current residents for accommodations in their own communities. Indeed, the battle to dismantle the city's effective rent control laws — which keep housing affordable for thousands of

local and student tenants — is already under way, in anticipation of the windfall profit to be made from the new demand. Many of our neighbors are elderly people living on fixed incomes, and the rise in rents and property will force them out of their homes, certainly the cruellest effect of University Park.

It is our experience that MIT's Real Estate Department has amassed a shameful record of insensitivity to the Institute's neighbors, while promoting a public image of co-operation and reasonableness. Its actions are not worthy of a world-class university. They demean MIT's reputation and are the source of controversy, and indeed of the hostility you may perceive from Cambridge residents.

For these reasons, we will continue to lobby for responsible development, and we will continue to speak out against University Park. No state approvals or city building permits have been granted to the developer, and we will contest all their applications until a more appropriate plan is finalized. By following this course of action, MIT is losing a significant opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the community it is pledged to serve, and is acting contrary to its own ultimate best interests.

Phillip Barber
The Green Street Tenants' Alliance
 (Editor's note: *The Green Street Tenants' Alliance* is a group formed in Dec. 1986 of approximately 30 Cambridgeport residents.)

EFD not popular choice for Class of 1987 gift

To the editor:

In response to the letter by Marino Tavaréz '87 ["Class gift will be meaningless," Feb. 3], I would like to explain the Class of 1987 Council's decision not to select a donation to the Endowment For Divestiture as the class gift to MIT.

Suggestions for a senior gift were obtained through a survey that was distributed to all seniors during fall term, at a class study break, and by calling or contacting a class officer. From these ideas, the Senior Class Council, as elected representatives, discussed the feasibility of the most popular choices for a class gift.

There is a brunch in March to kick off the Senior Gift Pledge program. Volunteers from each living group solicit pledges from the seniors living in their dormi-

tory or fraternity. The off-campus seniors are solicited through a telethon. The senior gift ideally represents a unified expression on the part of the seniors that will benefit MIT and will also allow the class to be remembered.

The Endowment For Divestiture was not a leading contender in our tallies of suggestions. Disapproval of EFD as a class gift occurred in many forms such as letters to *The Tech*, returned surveys, and verbal expressions to the officers. The Class of 1987 Council's decision was not an expression of its opinion of EFD. EFD simply was not a top contender for a senior gift, a gift that would have unified class spirit, thereby leaving a positive memory to MIT.

Grace W. Ueng '87
 President, Class of 1987

Tech's review of MTG production too harsh

To the editor:

In regards to Julian West's review of the Musical Theater Guild's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," we would like to point out that the type of review the show received would be better suited to a world premiere.

West obviously does not like the musical, the quality of the production notwithstanding. Most of his review attacked the script and the music. A review of a well-known play should comment on the performances and

the production, not the play itself.

His comments about the specific people involved with the show were appropriate, though we do not agree with his opinions. We appreciated the excellent performances and a fine production of a very entertaining musical. We think that *The Tech* reviewers should not be unduly biased against the show before attending.

William V. Chapp '88
 Glen E. Myers '88
 Aimee Smrz '88

