Opinion

Letters To the Editor

Fill Finboard Vacancy With Write-In Candidate

My hope is that the Undergraduate Association President, Floor Leader, or a proper authority will allow one of the write-in candidates to the empty Finboard seat. At least a write-in will have a marginally better chance of being elected by the student body and student activities than some UA cronies waiting to be UAP (e.g., from the only one of whether or not we need a new system at all is the appallingly incompetent way in which the Office of Housing and Food Services has been handling the transition to the new card system. I had a new photograph taken in Du Pont on Registration Day (because as an "old" grad student, my now-obsolet ed ID card does not have the new card photo and I have been waiting for my new card ever since). On February 19, I contacted the Office of Housing and Food Services, only to learn that the Office of Housing and Food Services has assigned only one staff person to deal with complaints from the card system.

Jason K. Bucy '96

MIT Identification Cards Inferior To Harvard's

The complaints of DeWitt C. Seward IV '93 ["New Cards Create New Hassles," March 11] about the new problems associated with the new MIT ID cards are right on target. What I find most annoying about this whole process (aside from the fact that whether or not we need a new system at all is the appallingly incompetent way in which the Office of Housing and Food Services has been handling the transition to the new card system. I had a new photograph taken in Du Pont on Registration Day (because as an "old" grad student, my now-obsolet ed ID card does not have the new card photo and I have been waiting for my new card ever since). On February 19, I contacted the Office of Housing and Food Services, only to learn that the Office of Housing and Food Services has assigned only one staff person to deal with complaints from the card system.

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Snowplows Irk East Campus Residents

The winter of 1994 is special in my mind for several reasons. First, being from the South, I had never really experienced snow. Second, while living at East Campus, I had never experienced Physical Plant. Now some of you may be thinking, "This girl has lost her mind. She's reminiscing about Physical Plant." But wait! Before passing judgment on my premature snow memory, let me present the facts. 

First, one must understand the philosophy of Physical Plant. It would seem that physical plant workers adhere to two general rules of Physical Plant. It would seem that physical plant workers adhere to two general rules. The first rule is "If it snows, the ground will be safe for human passage."

Second, while living at East Campus, I had a new photograph taken in Du Pont on Registration Day (because as an "old" grad student, my now-obsolet ed ID card does not have the new card photo and I have been waiting for my new card ever since). On February 19, I contacted the Office of Housing and Food Services, only to learn that the Office of Housing and Food Services has assigned only one staff person to deal with complaints from the card system.

This revelation came in early February, when my roommate and I woke up at the sound of the alarm at 6 a.m. — except it was not the alarm. The throbbing beat of a snowplow, somewhere on campus, was louder than the alarm clock. The second rule is "If it snows, the ground will be safe for human passage."

Later that day, when the plow had passed and the snow was cleared, we decided to head off to the library. We arrived at the library and made our way to the stacks. The stacks were full of snow.

I think we should collectively discredit the Institute's trust in its physical plant workers. The physical plant workers seem to have no idea how to handle the snow. It is not the physical plant's job to clear the snow. It is the job of the facilities department. The physical plant workers should be given the proper tools and equipment to clear the snow. The physical plant workers should be trained to use these tools and equipment. The physical plant workers should be held accountable for their performance.

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Annoyed, but too tired to complain, I just hoped that the plow would have to stop backing up sometime — a wish that was not granted. The plow continued to back up and then to move forward, creating a never-ending cycle of plowing and backing up. The plow worked tirelessly to clear the snow from the campus, but the result was a mess. The snow was piled high, making it difficult to walk on the sidewalks. The snow was also blown into the streets, creating a dangerous environment for pedestrians.

The physical plant workers should be held accountable for their performance. They should be held responsible for clearing the snow. They should be held responsible for maintaining a safe campus environment.

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