

The Tech



OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE UNDERGRADUATES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

VOL. LXXV. NO. 27

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1955

GRATIS

Frosh Acquaintance Dance Tonight; Nearby Girls' Schools Enumerated

All freshmen are invited to the first Freshman Acquaintance Dance, to be held tonight in Morss Hall from 8:00 p.m. till midnight. The music will be provided by Jack Winter's band.

The Freshman Acquaintance Dances have always proved an ideal way for a freshman to launch his social career in Boston. A large quantity of girls are imported for the occasion from Emerson, Boston University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Massachusetts Memorial, and Boston City Hospitals, and several other sources. There will be other acquaintance dances in the future, both at the Institute and at the many nearby girls' schools.

All freshmen are strongly advised to be present both tonight and at future dances, which will be announced in *The Tech*.

The following is a list of some of the main sources of dates, with a few statistics to aid those interested in following up friendships begun at the dances.

Boston University—Charlesgate is the main women's dormitory, housing the majority of the resident co-eds. It is just across the Charles River from the Institute, over the Harvard Bridge and right on Beacon Street. First term freshmen may stay out until 9:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, midnight on Saturdays, and 10:00 p.m. on Sundays. Sophomores must return by 12:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and Juniors have until 1:00 a.m. Girls may have unlimited overnights, if they have written permission.

Radcliffe—In easy walking distance from the Harvard Square station. Freshmen are allowed fifteen one o'clocks the first term. Permission from the head resident is necessary for later hours.

Simmons—Take the MTA to Kenmore, then a Brookline Avenue bus, for the Brookline Avenue houses. The Kent Street dorms can be reached by the Cleveland Circle-Beacon Street trolley from Massachusetts station. The Friday and Saturday deadline is midnight. Eight 1:30 a.m. permissions are allowed a year, along with special lates for important dances.

Emerson—Dorms are on Beacon Street and Commonwealth Avenue, all easily accessible by walking. Freshmen must be in by 11:00 p.m. Fridays and 1:00 a.m. Saturdays.

Wheelock—Most dorms can be reached by Brookline Avenue busses from Kenmore station. 12:20 a.m. is the Friday night deadline, 1:00 a.m. (Continued on page 8)

Institute Activities On Display Today In Rockwell Cage

An activities and athletics midway is being held today in Rockwell Cage, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to acquaint the freshmen with the many opportunities offered them for participation in extra-curricular campus life and in sports.

One half of the cage is devoted to booths and displays presented by each of the many athletic groups and teams. On the other side of the cage, freshmen are invited to interest themselves in publications, dramatics, hobby clubs, religious groups, and the other activities of campus life. Both the Army and Air Force divisions of the ROTC will be represented, and those freshmen planning to take their military science in the Army ROTC may obtain information about the various branches there.

Construction Of Compton Laboratories Started; Building To Meet Needs Of Physics Department

Work was begun last summer on the Karl Taylor Compton laboratories, a large building project to improve the physics laboratory facilities and provide such innovations as a nuclear reactor.

According to the present plans, the building will be 300 feet long, five stories high, and will have a penthouse on the roof. In addition to labs, there will be eight classrooms and a lecture hall, seating 425, which is intended to replace room 10-250. The lecture hall will have tables and stools rather than ordinary seats and will be provided with television broadcasting facilities. The building is expected to cost \$3.5 million dollars. The reactor, which will cost one million dollars, will be used both in research and in instruction, in connection with the courses in nuclear physics and nuclear engineering.

The building will be a memorial to Dr. Compton and a fulfillment of his hopes for such a center of inter-departmental research and activity in electronics, physics, and other fields.

The financial plans for the undertaking call for about three million dollars to back the grants for the research projects to take place in the labs.

When completed, the Compton labs will augment the facilities of the George Eastman laboratories.

President Gives Banquet For Freshman Advisers

Faculty Advisors and Student Counselors attended, as guests of President James R. Killian, Jr., a banquet at the Campus Room of the Graduate House last Wednesday night, and launched the year's Freshman Counseling Program. Speakers were President Killian, Professor Norman Dahl, Professor Curtis Powell, Doctor James Faulkner, and Robert Bridgman '57. The counseling program, now in its fourth year, draws both upperclassmen and faculty together in a concerted effort to provide all possible assistance to the new Techman in his attempt to integrate himself into the MIT community.

The Faculty Advisors got acquainted with their advisees on Thursday in both informal meetings on campus, and dinner meetings at the homes of the advisors. The student counselor program started Wednesday night a short time after President Killian's banquet when the counselors met their freshman for the first time. All student counselors are volunteers who have attended special seminars on freshman problems especially, and student problems in general. Because the student counselors live near the freshmen whom they counsel, they are always available to help the freshman solve his particular problems.

The offices of *The Tech* are in the basement of Walker Memorial. Make-up is on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, and all who are interested are invited to come to the office Wednesday and watch the fall term's first issue take shape.

970 Freshmen Entering This Fall Cause Overcrowded Dormitories; 150 Students Forced Off Campus

This is the year of the big squeeze. The advent of a freshman class numbering 970 men, coupled with the continued presence of three other large classes, has forced approximately 150 upperclassmen to the drab confines of a heavily-cotted Walker gym. The class of '59 is less numerous by only 10 than last year's entering class, which was the largest in MIT's history.

The housing situation at the Graduate House is even tighter. Between 150 and 200 graduate students lack accommodations. Westgate has a waiting list of approximately 150 families.

MIT fraternities have pledged 290 men. At least 40 more freshmen would have to join fraternities to ease con-

ditions noticeably. It is estimated that before the rushing stops in two weeks, 310 freshmen will have pledged a fraternity. This is approximately the same number which pledged last year.

As the situation stands at present all freshmen will have rooms in the dormitories. The overflow of 150 is made up of transfer students and upperclassmen tardy in confirming room assignments. Frederick G. Fasset, Jr., Dean of Housing, would chance no estimate as to what percent of the surplus would eventually find its way into the dormitories.

Open House Limits For Dorm Residents

Here at the Institute we enjoy extremely liberal open house hours. The hours are set by the Dormitory Council.

While classes are in session the Monday through Thursday hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday the hours are extended to from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Saturday the hours are from 12:00 noon to 1:00 a.m.; and on Sunday from 12:00 noon to midnight. The day before an official school holiday the hours are from the usual opening time for the day until 1:00 a.m. On the holiday the dorms are open from noon to 10:00 p.m.

The various dormitory lounges will be open as follows:

East Campus lobby and Burton Room, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily for women; Craft's Library and Lounge are available by sign up from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Burton House Lobby, New Lounge and 410 Lounge, daily from 9:00 a.m. to 1 a.m.; other recreational areas regular open house hours.

Baker House—all areas from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

During vacation periods special hours are posted. On other special occasions during the semester extended open house hours are arranged. These are posted on the bulletin boards.

It is the responsibility of the Dormitory Council to enforce the open house hours.

ADVERTISING

Please be informed that we have to have written confirmation of all advertising matter by 5:00 p.m. of the preceding:
Friday for a Tuesday issue.
Wednesday for a Friday issue.

Hillel Has Service In Kresge Chapel

Hillel commences its use of the new chapel with *Rosh Hashana* services this week-end. Services were held last night and this morning and are also scheduled for tonight at 6:45 p.m. and tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

Services for *Yom Kippur* will be held in the Little Theater of the new Kresge Auditorium at the following times: *Kol Nidre* services on Sunday, September 25, at 6:30 p.m., and services again the following morning at 9:00 a.m.

An Acquaintance Social for the incoming Freshmen will be held in conjunction with several girls' schools this Sunday night, September 18, in the Student Faculty Lounge, Room 2-290, at 8:00 p.m.

The Tech Offers Diverse Opportunities To Explore Business, Journalistic, And Photographic Interests; Freshman Interviews Can Be Arranged At Midway

What are Techmen interested in? Some are interested only in studies. They are tools and they spend most of their time in their rooms. To some women present an overriding attraction. They are Tech playboys and they spend most of their time off the campus. Some Techmen, however, supplement these instincts with an interest in journalism. They are both tools and playboys. These men, whether their inclinations are editorial or commercial, generally find their way down to the office of *The Tech*.

The Tech, in the midst of its 75th successive year of publication, provides a numerous assortment of activities for freshmen and other prospective staff members. In the literary field there are openings on the news, features, and sports staffs. Camera fans can join the pho-

graphic staff, which has use of *The Tech's* darkroom facilities, which are completely equipped with all shades of dark.

The business staff—the advertising department, circulation department, and treasury—has many opportunities in its branches for advertising salesmen, assistant treasurers, office personnel, and circulation assistants.

In every department of the paper, promotion is based strictly on the individual's merits and interest. Furthermore, promotion is by no means limited to upperclassmen—by the end of last year freshmen had won Junior Board posts.

Incidentally, a few of the non-aesthetic rewards for *The Tech* men are worth mentioning. There is the staff refrigerator, which is kept stocked with premium beer and

coke. Also, there is the office telephone, an easy link to women's colleges. (You have no doubt found out by now that you can't dial out on your hall phones, but only on the pay phones). And there is the annual banquet, which provides a welcome respite from the rigors of common meals.

Freshmen interested in working on *The Tech* can arrange to see members of the Managing Board at the Activities Midway in Rockwell Cage on Saturday. Staff members at *The Tech's* booth will be available to explain any aspect of the paper.

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OFFICES OF THE TECH

News, Editorial and Business—Room 020, Walker Memorial, Cambridge 39, Mass. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Boston, Massachusetts.

Editorials

OUR WELCOME

- ... to a college education.
- ... to independence of thought and action.
- ... to freedom from detention and spoon-feeding.
- ... to much that is new and different—perhaps a strange city, certainly a new philosophy, many new friends, to the Institute's brand of hard work.
- ... to, we hope, the best years of your life.

Welcome means make yourself at home, and making yourself at home requires some familiarity with the surroundings. That is where *The Tech* hopes to make its contribution: in helping you to gain that familiarity which you will want and find necessary if you are to feel at home in your new environment.

For most of you this issue of *The Tech* is your introduction to the Institute's undergraduate newspaper. This issue, produced by a skeleton staff, is not typical. It is intended to show the incoming Class of 1959 what we hope you are going to follow in the columns of this paper twice a week during your stay at the Institute: reports on sports, on student government, features on the changing face of the Institute, news of activities and of many other on-campus events.

The Tech also attempts to act as a lobby for what we hopefully think are the best interests of the undergraduate body. If you disagree with our positions, we hope you will take the opportunity afforded you to answer in our column "Through the Mail."

IBM, THE INSTITUTE, AND A COMMON MISCONCEPTION

Everyone at the Institute has a number. You will receive your IBM card and number on Monday. A word of caution: Don't read more significance into this number than really exists. Contrary to some unfounded rumors, the Institute is not cold, heartless and automaton-like. Just because students have a number does not mean that everyone thinks of them as *being* numbers.

There are no ivy-cloistered walls behind which the integrity of the individual is more carefully preserved than it is within the Institute community. There is no atmosphere in which the rights of the student to disagree, to differ, to deviate from the accepted "norm", and to search for and establish better standards for himself are more consistently upheld. No institution has so many different groups—Professor, Dean, Doctor, Student—concerned with the individual's adjustment to and opinion of his new environment.

The philosophy of the Institute regarding the individual is probably best expressed in these few phrases from Dr. Karl T. Compton, late chairman of the corporation and president of MIT from 1930 to 1949:

"Personalities are the chief concern of men . . ."

"Personality [is the] most precious and potent of all social values."

"An educational system of complete uniformity . . . because of the complex aspects of psychology and modern life . . . would explode."

The Tech Offers An Introduction To Boston College Sponsored Activities Found Best

In a few weeks new faces on the M.I.T. campus will begin wondering how Boston differs from other towns playing host to educational institutions. The reason for this interest will most likely evolve from the sequence of Fall acquaintance dances on the college campuses.

To the newcomer, Boston doesn't present a very lasting impression. It takes the average person a week to see what would be of general interest to him in Boston, and to overcome the fascination of being in a new town far from home. But after that time has elapsed, Boston generates a very cold atmosphere. The people on the street act in a very sedate manner, and the sidewalks are usually empty by ten o'clock on the week-ends. Entertainment, outside of movies and theatres, seems to be non-existent. And, of course, there are the Boston Blue-Laws which prevent any sort of entertainment from continuing past 12:00 midnight on Saturday.

The Tech would like to introduce the entering class of 1959 to a more pleasant view of Boston. Unlike any other town, Boston entertains a very large college student body. M.I.T., Harvard, Boston University, Tufts College, Radcliffe, Wellesley, Simmons, Northeastern University, and Brandeis, are some of the very large colleges, within a very small radius

of Boston. In addition to these colleges, there are hundreds of smaller colleges and finishing schools in the Boston area. All these college groups combined, create a very active and entertaining college society. This college society plans acquaintance dances, produces plays, presents concerts, and in general provides a very active medium for becoming acquainted with people who share your interests.

The young people of college age who aren't students enjoy a very pleasant program of entertainment also. In the Boston area there are several ballrooms featuring name bands which draw large crowds.

Admission usually runs about one dollar. Some of the very popular ones are the Totem Pole Ballroom at Norumbega Park, Moseley's On The Charles, and the Oceanview Ballroom at Revere Beach.

For foreign students, the international Student Association of Greater Boston offers a wonderful weekly program which includes lectures on popular subjects, dances, dinners, concerts, and plays. Students who have aesthetic entertainment appetites will be glad to take advantage of Boston as the cultural center of the East. In addition to the tradition and history behind Boston, which has

(Continued on page 4)

Here's another instance where the Patronage Refund is very important

For Your Car!

GASOLINE OIL WASHING GREASING

The COOP wishes to emphasize the fact that members of the Technology Store may purchase gasoline and oil for their cars and obtain a Patronage Refund thereon. A Patronage Refund is also paid on the charges for washing and greasing. To the drivers of cars, this represents a saving that is well worth while and you are urged to visit this Authorized TECH Store Gas Station.

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Announcement . . .

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On the Board of Directors, the M.I.T. representatives are Ralph E. Freeman, Head of Dept. of Economics; Harold E. Lobdell, Executive Vice President, Alumni Association; Walter Humphreys, Secretary of the M.I.T. Corporation; Donald P. Severance, Secretary-Treasurer of Alumni Association, and Lennard Wharton, Class of 1955.

The COOP prices are never higher than elsewhere, and in many cases for the same quality much lower. In addition, a Patronage Refund is credited to members on all purchases of 25c or more.

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Every TECH man should become a member without delay. The Membership fee is one dollar.

PATRONAGE REFUNDS. For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1956, a Patronage Refund upon cash purchases, or charge purchases to the member's personal account, has been voted at the rate of not less than 8% on charge purchases and 10% on cash. It is essential that you join early in order that you may obtain full benefit of membership at the Tech Store.

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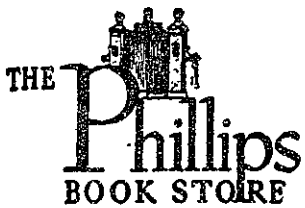
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Participation, Competition Keynote M. I. T. Athletics

by Jack Friedman '57

The many contributions made to science and industry by the Institute and its traditionally high academic standards have all but obscured its part as pioneer in intercollegiate sport. You may have heard of the scientific achievements and of the academic tradition but it is extremely unlikely that you know that MIT introduced intercollegiate sailing competition or was one of the first to recognize the fast growing though little known sport of weight-lifting.

Because of the lack of big-time Tech major sport teams, the athletic program has received little notice. It is however, one of the most complete to be found in any university, large or small. The program includes every sport, major or minor, with the single exception of football. Participation in varsity, freshman and j.v. athletics is perhaps the most complete anywhere. Almost one-third of the undergraduate body has at one time or another participated in the intercollegiate program.

No "Minor" Sports

Before I mentioned major and minor sports, let me correct myself. At the Institute there are no minor sports, all sports are treated equally. This is perhaps the essence of the MIT attitude.

We like to win, we are out there not just to "participate" but to win if possible. Just as there are no minor sports, there are no minor victories. A win by the basketball team over a comparatively minor league opponent rates just as high as a win by the crew over a definitely big-league adversary.

But it is obviously impossible for a college like Tech to compete in the so-called big-time in every sport without granting special privileges to athletes and recruiting prospects. This is not the way the Institute does things. We, therefore, compete with schools in our own class. Since the calibre of our teams varies with each sport, the calibre of our opponents varies greatly. This policy is perhaps the best possible one. If it were more generally in use the present situation of drastic overemphasis in intercollegiate sport would be virtually nonexistent. MIT has found the answer to overemphasis not in the equally undesirable complete deemphasis but in proper emphasis.

Tech Championship

The success of this program may be easily seen. Last year's Tech varsities took home such prizes as the Thames Cup of the Henley Regatta, the national intercollegiate sailing crown and the NECAA Cross Country

Girls

(Continued from page 1)

on Saturdays, and 10:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Wellesley—The Middlesex and Boston line runs special busses to the somewhat more inaccessible campus, and should be phoned for information. Freshmen may take fifteen one o'clocks or overnights the first term and eighteen the second. One 11:30 p.m. week-night is permitted per week.

Lasell Junior College—Take the Boston College-Commonwealth trolley to the end of the line. From there take the Middlesex and Boston's Auburn-dale bus to Washington Street. The curfew is 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and 12:45 a.m. on Saturdays. Two one o'clocks are allowed a term.

Championship. There were many other top moments but probably the most important thing was that they were registered by genuine students, not paid goons.

Participation Great

The athletic program at Tech is designed to allow the fullest possible participation. Many of the sports, crew and squash, to name two, do not require a great deal of previous experience. In almost all sports at the freshman level and in many at the varsity level there is no "cut" made.

The athletic facilities are excellent and are being constantly improved, witness the new hockey rink and basketball floor. Despite the high percentage of intercollegiate participants, there is room for a great many more. All these things add up to one conclusion. Your participation in intercollegiate athletics. Although you may have never gone out for a sport before, you need not hesitate to now. A surprisingly small number of Tech varsity athletes had high school experience. Why not give it a try? The field day and fall sports program offer an excellent opportunity to start out.

Intramural Program Very Extensive Here

The MIT intramural program is probably the most comprehensive and well-organized system to be found in the country today. Over 1700 students compete, in one way or another, in the thirteen different sports offered. Among these are basketball, touch football, softball, volleyball, hockey, track, tennis and badminton. As can be seen the attempt is to give everyone something to get into.

The new hockey rink led to the addition of our own style of hockey to the list last year, while the new cage floor made completing the basketball season an easier job. Sailing is another recently started event.

At the end of the year an all sports trophy is awarded to the living group that accumulates the most intramural points by fielding the best teams in the most sports. Most houses get every eligible man to compete, to try new sports. The program is considered a good way to get new members to become a real part of the house or living group.

Teams were entered by such groups as the Chemistry Club and the DIC labs. The only disqualifying factors are a berth on the varsity team in the sport that you wish to compete in or a previous varsity letter in that sport.

The aim of the program is to give all Tech students of less-than-varsity calibre the opportunity to compete in low-pressure but spirited games. So that more and more Techmen can enter the sport they most enjoy every attempt has been made to encompass most phases of competition.

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President's Open House Scheduled This Sunday; Frosh, Parents Greeted

President and Mrs. James R. Killian, Jr. will hold a reception for the members of the Class of 1959 and their parents from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. The affair will be held at the President's House, 111 Memorial Drive.

The reception has always been a high point of the Week-end, capping the series of programs designed to introduce the Freshman to the Institute community. Last year's affair was attended by about two thousand students and parents.

Dr. and Mrs. Killian will head the receiving line consisting of members of the faculty and administration.

The Tech Replaces Letters To Parents; Bargain Rates Now

Do you find yourself afflicted with writer's cramp when the time comes to write home? *The Tech*, having many staff members who once were freshmen, and therefore being sympathetic to your problem, will tell you how many upperclassmen have alleviated (we won't go so far as to say obviated) the necessity for letter-writing.

Every Tuesday and Friday these upperclassmen have the news sent home for them—in the form of a copy of *The Tech*, the official undergraduate disseminator of news, student opinion, and literary inspiration. Over fifty times a year four-, six- and eight-page letters are mailed to the parents of about 1000 Techmen, foreign and domestic.

Of course this news is also received for campus consumption, in the form of copies sent to the faculty by Institute mail (about 250), issues purchased by the dorms for distribution to residents, copies going to the fraternities and other campus organizations, and copies sold in the lobby of Building 10.

Next time you find yourself paralyzed by writer's cramp, come down to the office of *The Tech* and have the paper sent home. The cost is only \$2.75 per year inside the United States and \$3.25 outside. Two year rates—bless those quantity discounts—are only \$5.00 and \$6.00 respectively.

CLASSIFIED

Want to Buy Something—Have Something to Sell? Use the classified columns of "The Tech" in order to reach the whole MIT community and get results. Minimum rates: \$1.00 for 30 words.

Student Govt. Offers Benefits Of Practical Executive Experience

All extracurricular activities at the Institute serve three primary functions, providing for their members relaxation, friendship, and a certain amount of practical experience and know-how. Devotees of almost any hobby or sport will find an organization of fellow enthusiasts which they can join.

In addition to these activities, however, there is a group which serves to regulate the affairs of the students, including the other activities. The student government bodies are headed by Institute Committee, usually called Inscamm, which includes representatives from every undergraduate class and living group.

Below Inscamm are the individual class governments. The first opportunity to get into Institute politics will be the election of Freshman Class officers and Freshman Council representatives from each section. For upperclassmen there are also several elected committees handling such functions as Junior Prom Weekend, Senior Rings, and Senior Week.

The government is also organized by living groups. All fraternities are

under the jurisdiction of the Interfraternity Conference, consisting of representatives from each house. Dormitory residents are directly responsible to Dormitory Council and to the individual House Committees under it. The majority of House Committee members are elected early in the fall, with freshmen often filling several of the positions. Besides actual membership on these bodies, there are opportunities to work on many of their subcommittees, especially in connection with the planning and putting on of social functions.

All the student government groups on campus are fortunate in possessing a large degree of autonomy. Both legislative and judicial problems are handled with almost no faculty or administration interference. Inscamm and its various subcommittees exercise sole responsibility for the undergraduates, both as individuals and in the many organizations they form. In its various branches government provides ample outlets for the leadership and initiative of the student body and supplies many opportunities to serve one's fellow undergraduates.

Boston

(Continued from page 2)

kept its atmosphere a very conservative one, there are many established musical institutions which present free concerts to the public. The New England Conservatory of Music presents free concerts in its Jordan Hall. The Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum on the Fenway presents a very excellent selection of free concerts. Also many of the large colleges like M.I.T. support a free concert program for their students.

Tickets are available for all performances in the Boston theatres through the T.C.A. Concerts given by the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra are usually very popular. Theatre productions that are on their way to Broadway stop at Boston before going on to New York. Every month there is usually some exhibition like the Sportsman's Show or the Boat Show going on in the Mechanics Hall or some other assembly hall. The Boston Garden houses the Circus, the Rodeo, the Ice Follies, wrestling, boxing, and basketball games whenever they are in season. Announcements of these events sometimes appear in the *The Tech* and arrangements can be made through the T.C.A. or other box offices for tickets.

If you enjoy spectator sports, tickets for all the college games can be obtained through the T.C.A. or from the box offices at Harvard Stadium, Fenway Park (American

League Baseball Grounds), and Huntington Field.

Around Boston there are several night clubs that are very popular with M.I.T. students. Among these are "Blinstrub's Village," the "Bavarian Rathskeller," "Robin Hood's Ten Acres," and "The Meadows." The laws around Boston limiting liquor to minors are very strict. If you are under 21, be sure you order non-alcoholic beverages or a dinner.

When winter covers Boston, skiing and ice skating become very popular with students in all the colleges. Many of the public parks have ponds that freeze over in the winter and many of the students plan trips to skiing resorts in New Hampshire during the winter week-ends.

An overall picture like this plus the many student activities within the M.I.T. campus should provide enough entertainment and recreation for students to enjoy the Boston area.

Extracurricular Activities Important As Part Of Well Rounded Education

by Philip Bryden '56

President Activities Council

By the end of Saturday afternoon, you will have been exposed to various and sundry displays, all designed to attract your attention to extra-curricular activities. In the next few weeks, you will be hearing a lot more from the activities, by means of bulletin board notices, personal visits, (remember those TCA cards returned with the registration material?) and smokers. Smokers, by the way, are informal meetings of activity staffs, at which interested students can share cider, donuts, etc., and find out how they can work with the organization.

Many of you may be thinking, "I came here to learn about science and engineering, so why should I bother with activities?" As you know, the Institute is trying to gear its educational program to turning out leaders in community life as well as experts in the professional fields. That is the reason for the emphasis placed on the Humanities Program. That is one of the reasons for the strong administration support for student activities. Activities give the participating students a chance to work together toward any common goal.

More important from your own viewpoint, perhaps, is the simple fact that activities are fun, and you CAN'T study ALL the time. There are more than 80 different activities appealing to almost every interest, whether it be pleasure, self-improvement, community service, or just a change from the books. I won't enumerate the activities for you here, since *The Social Beaver*,

issued by TCA, does a much better job than I could.

Probably a lot of you would be glad to join in the fun of activities if there only weren't those grades to worry about. I know the diploma from MIT is worth a lot, and nobody should give that up to become an activities man. On the other hand, the more complete education which you can achieve by taking part in student activities, in addition to your formal studies, is one of the greatest advantages obtained by going to college.

My advice is simple. Look over the activity displays in the cage. Watch the bulletin boards for information about smokers. When you see one listed which interests you, visit it. This won't commit you to anything you don't want. Then decide which activities you would like to work with, and join them. It is not necessary to go "hog wild" and join ten groups in order to gain the benefits of activities. It is much better to join perhaps two or three, and do a little more in each. Another thing—you can join activities ANY TIME while you are at school, but the sooner you're in, the more time there is to advance yourself if you so desire. A few hours a week, which would probably otherwise be wasted, can really help to make your life at MIT more pleasant, and more profitable.

These activities are yours to participate in. They exist only for you. Why not take part? I think you will be glad you did.

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