

Official Undergraduate News Organ of Technology



A Record of Continuous News Service for 42 Years

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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In Charge of This Issue: L. E. Fogg '24

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1923

EXPLAINING A CHANGE

IT is to be the policy of Volume XLIII henceforth to include in its revised notice column many items formerly run as straight news stories. This decision has been made with no intention of belittling happenings at the Institute or of denying publicity to any occurrence. It is merely to put them in their proper place.

A newspaper's only excuse for existence is the dissemination of news, modern daily advertising pamphlets to the contrary, The Tech desires to follow this belief to the fullest extent of its ability.

To do this it has become necessary to expel from the actual news columns everything which is not strictly "news." But that by no means indicates that there is no place for items of importance to readers of the paper. The purpose of the change is simply to remove "notices," once run disguised as stories, to a column set aside for them.

All such items will be collected for each issue and divided between "official" and "undergraduate." The Tech desires to make its notice column as complete a record of important items as possible. All activities and societies, as well as members of the faculty, are requested to make use of it whenever they have information which they desire passed on to the students at the Institute.

RESTRAIN THAT IMPULSE

SEVERAL thoughtless students have been found abusing the various pianos around the Institute, at the expense of those who wish to practice on the instruments, as well as of the pianos.

There are many men at the Institute who are good pianists, who have no pianos at their houses and are totally dependent upon these. There is no reason why, for a moment's amusement of one thoughtless person, others should be deprived of using a well-tuned piano.

So, from the stand-point of justice, as well as expense, restrain that impulse to crash on any open key-board that happens to be in sight.

ENGINEERING HONESTY

The Expression of a Worthwhile Code

In the light of the present discussion of the Honor System at Technology, the following article from the Dearborn Independent is highly interesting. Mr. Ford's paper pays great tribute to the engineer. Let us hope it is not undeserved. Certainly it is worth thinking about. The conception of the engineering personnel expressed here recognizes a universal Honor System.—The Editor.

The newspapers have carried the story of an engineering student who found that he had been credited too highly on his examination papers. He returned the papers to his professor, called attention to the error, and received the lower marking which his work deserved.

Engineering is Honesty

To draw a moral of honesty from such an instance would be to lose sight of several things. Engineering is honesty. This student may or may not have acted on a consciously ethical and moral impulse. He may or may not have returned the papers because his stock of religious inhibitions were wholly against his availing himself of an undeserved credit. These matters could only be decided after conference with the student himself. But, in any case, it is precisely what he should have done as an engineering student.

Estimates in Honor

Engineering is honesty. It is the science of the truth of materials and their use. As an engineer this young man would know better than to place a 2,000-pound strain on a 500-pound strength. It is just as fatal to the general concerns of society for anyone to place 100 per cent confidence in what is 50 per cent deception.

A whole community was plunged in to ruin the other day. Years of its time and labor and incalculable values of a more delicate kind were destroyed, because the people placed 100 per cent dependence upon a banker who was only 25 per cent dependable. A course in engineering would have been good for that banker—and may be for that whole community.

With more of the engineering type of mind in public affairs there would be more general safety. Engineering is edifying—that's its business. It enters into all building, it is the technique, in one form or another, of The Race of Builders.

Engineering for Politicians

If our politicians were tinctured a little with the a b c of engineering we should not only have honesty (that goes without saying) but efficiency—the kind of efficiency that knows that

national life cannot be built on a foundation of windbags, and that a national monetary system cannot be made the corner stone of private conceptions.

This country wants engineering types, not only in every field of industry but in finance and legislation and in public health and in all our economic and educational affairs. Because the engineering type goes to the foundation and builds up honestly, knowing that only honest building will stand.



The Lounger has decided after weighty consideration that he was wrong about Marion. He has seen her picture for one thing, and besides the "one and only" isn't at Wellesley any more. No, he hasn't actually met her as yet but the prospect is reassuring.

About the anonymous sports desk man, however, the Lounger feels that something should be done. The Institute is becoming far too sporty anyway. Not even the baby blue golf socks that were in evidence yesterday in the main lobby caused more than passing comment. Of course they wouldn't have been so bad but that pink design on the cuff was the last straw. In days not long past men became intimately acquainted with the Charles for lesser offences.

If some of us do not maintain the portentous dignity of Technology the popular conception of Institute men will be endangered. We send our musical clubs and the show on trips, we have three days vacation in April simply for Junior "Week," we are even allowed a rest between the second and third terms. Now come three Harvard professors to teach us and the secret is out.

We are being Hawvawdized. The faculty is considering a plan whereby a student can replace triple E and other snap courses by electing general studies. But we must band together to conceal our shame. If we do not have to work any more, at least we can abstain from flaunting our ignominy to the world.

The Lounger hates to pick on Bursar Ford again. But there's a pitcher down at the Braves Camp by the name of Horace Ford this year. With Uncle's contemporaneous trip South, it looks as though he has gone out on a "barnstorming" expedition.

Call It By the Right Name

A Rogers' Man on the Honor System

John E. Burchard '23

It is unflattering at first glance to us of the architectural department, who over a year ago introduced the "honor system" to Technology, to have received so little recognition of it then and now to see it become so large an issue, and principally because a Course X man, accused of cheating, has a group of his peers sit in judgment upon him. I for one am glad to swallow the insult to avail myself of the striking opportunity offered by the occasion.

My communication is of little weight for it cavils merely at a name. But distinctly, it seems to me, that any fair minded purist will agree in objecting to the application of the term "honor system" to the methods of espionage now being offered Technology.

Let us suppose that tomorrow Mayor Curley were to say "It is unnatural for men to steal and murder. Tonight we remove police—but any citizen who sees another stealing or murdering shall report him to a council of citizens who shall then sit upon the case, weigh the evidence and inflict due punishment." Such was one of the methods tried by the French Sansculottes. Is it not essentially our "honor system"?

The objection to the parallel as I see it lies in the feasibility of the two. The "honor system" will work, yes undoubtedly it will, and has, in Rogers and at the University of Minnesota by my own observation as well as many other places by the weight of overwhelming testimony. The system of crime detection would not. But have not the two systems everything else in common? Does not a student's expulsion terminate his collegiate life as effectively as a guillotine did the French nobleman's worldly existence? Does not the "honor system" create police, police who are not officers of the law and yet are secret agents? Does it not demand of all of us that we be busy in our watching, and then does it not substitute for a jury of faculty men, older men, ordinarily unswayed by bias, a jury of peers as foolish as ourselves, so impetuous, so easily worked up over caps and gowns or other infinitesimal questions.

A man's reputation through life is at stake and our system will try him in all callousness at the bar of well-meaning but not always well-balanced youth.

But forgetting all this and assuming the system works with perfect justice. What have we done? Torn down one set of courts and built up another—discharged the old police and engaged new ones at cheaper wages—substituted student govern-

ment for faculty rule. Why not student teaching too?

However creaky the machinery, the officious ones are having their inning. More committees are created on which to serve—more responsibilities for a few—the interested few, to shoulder to the damage of their other work.

And still I will not object. Let the students rule. It is good experience for them, perhaps good in result too. Let the honor system be efficient. Let us call it by its true name the "Student Proctor System."

An honor system that was an honor system would call for a signed pledge and the matter would be closed. No courts, no police. That is Utopia—that is the honor system. I favor it, so do we all, but one history has shown us that most of B. L. T.'s "so-called human race" are devoid of honor.

Mr. Gray's interesting statistics as to the ninety and nine per cent at Technology and their reasons for going astray confirm this conclusion. There is little to show any radical change since 1914 when we had the last blatant exhibition of lack of honor. If we are devoid of honor, and I feel we are, let us admit that the real honor system is impossible. If we want this other thing, then "vox populi, vox dei." But in honesty call it by its true name.

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INTERCOLLEGIATES

Coeds Aid at Dispensary

Coeds having free time at the Marquette University are volunteering for service at the quarters of the newly opened clinic. They do numerous duties at the clinic and make calls. An increase in ailments, real and otherwise, is expected among the undergraduates.

Challenge Faculty to Intelligence Test

"Al Jolson is a wrestling champion; Francis Scott Key, a woman who wrote poems; Boob McNutt, the heavy-weight champion," were some of the representative answers found on faculty intelligence tests. Such a quiz was first given to the students of Newcomb College with dismal results. Afterwards the undergraduates compiled one for the members of the faculty who had quite as much difficulty as their charges.

Print Names of Cheaters

To promote honesty in academic work, the names of students at the Oregon Agricultural College found guilty of cheating will be published, as part of the penalty in drastic cases. This treatment was advanced as a means of curbing the amount of dishonest work at the college.

Freshmen Given Free Shave

Five students at Heidelberg University were recently charged with shaving the mustaches of several freshmen. They pleaded not guilty on the ground that a freshman could not have a mustache to shave off. Their pleas were unsuccessful, however, and all five were expelled from the University.

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