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**Official News Organ of the Undergraduates of M. I. T.**

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**FIDELITY, PLUS OR MINUS?**

THE INTERFRATERNITY CONFERENCE, representing a majority of the fraternities at the Institute, must make a decision in the near future which will unquestionably make the attitude of that organization and the fraternities which it represents toward the prospect of a Walker Memorial Building better suited to student needs. The possibility of holding one large dance in February instead of two or three smaller dances in the spring and fall as in previous years, raises the question as to the best possible hall in which to hold such a function. Whether or not Walker Memorial is selected for this occasion is of vital importance in determining the value of fraternities to the undergraduate body and to Technology.

The tendency on the part of Institute students to take advantage of Walker Memorial's present conveniences regardless of the fact that they may not be quite so satisfactory as those obtainable elsewhere has been increasing encouragingly since last spring. It has been impressed upon the major portion of the student body that the Alumni, upon whom we depend for financing the project of a new Walker Memorial, must be satisfied that the present building and its facilities are used to such an extent as to warrant improvement and enlargement. It is absurd to argue that a favorable impression upon these men may be made by a refusal to use the building as it stands "because its facilities are inadequate." Loyalty, rather than revolt, will gain our end to a much greater degree and with much greater rapidity.

The Junior Prom was held last spring and will be held again this spring in Walker Memorial, bearing out the undergraduate body's growing appreciation of this rudimentary fact. That the social highlight of the school year is held in this building should carry sufficient import among the committees of the lesser social activities to assure a contribution of support from that source.

The fraternities constitute a vital part of the student body at the Institute, and it is of utmost importance that they in no way sever their organized sentiment with the existing opinion of that body. The combined effort of these units to contribute their share in expressing the desire for a larger Walker Memorial Building is as necessary as that of any other undergraduate unit. The lack of it, or a declaration of opposition to student opinion, will be more to their discredit than may be realized. Cooperation cannot be overstressed in a movement where every individual student must contribute his share in the carrying out of its purpose.

A new Walker Memorial is not in the far distant future, contrary to concurrent opinion among dissenting bodies. The report of the undergraduate committee last spring on the need for additional facilities in the student building made a definite impression upon the minds and sympathies of the Alumni, and a considerable amount of discussion and opinion in favor of the project is being voiced among the various groups of former students. Does it behoove us, then, to make the slightest suggestion of a falling off of student interest in this project at the vital point in its career?

The Interfraternity Conference will set an example by its decision upon the question, and whether this example bespeaks either of interest or of disinterest in the idea of a larger student building, other organizations will doubtless follow it. It is better to sacrifice the desirability of a better floor and surroundings that do not recall a noisy cafeteria in order that Walker Memorial some day may house these quantities itself, than to defeat the cause forever.

**THE OPEN FORUM**

**SANDERS TAKES ISSUE**

To the Editor of THE TECH:

There are editorials in all papers which are of little value, and that is expected even of THE TECH, but when such editorials leave false impressions and ideas in the minds of their readers, they should more properly be left out of the paper.

I refer to the sentiment, and it was entirely sentiment, printed in the Dec. 17 issue of THE TECH under "Filling Whiting's Shoes." I will take up the statements in particular.

The first is that the authorities at Tech were looking for someone to replace Mr. Whiting. Before it was known that this gentleman was going to retire from his very successful musical career, it had been planned to cease having him come to Tech as the money provided for this had been used up and the interest in his course of concerts had not been sufficient to warrant the procurement of another donation.

The second statement is a direct charge against the Combined Musical Clubs. This suggests that the latter organization does not fill our needs, and actually speaks of forming another orchestra! A month or two ago, the Musical Clubs looked into the idea of giving such concerts as THE TECH suggests, and received little financial encouragement regarding their success. There is no financial backing to such a plan, although Room 10-250 would be available free of charge. This would mean that the Clubs could put on a concert with the possibility of attracting an audience. Has the attendance at the Whiting concerts suggested that even a fair number of men would attend?

The Clubs do not flatter themselves that they could attract more music lovers than Mr. Whiting. Perhaps they could find some men who wish to back a student activity—one of the Institute's largest when counted by the number of men performing. This chance also appears slim when the Official News Organ of M. I. T. will not give them space on the front page the night of their Christmas Concert, which is admittedly the biggest social function of the fall season. That leaves only the course to take, giving a dance after the concert. This obviously requires a hall, such as Walker, which must be paid for. The cost of such an affair would probably exceed a hundred dollars, which the Clubs with their present limited student backing could not possibly hope to absorb.

Yes, true, a slight charge might be made to cover the expense. That was done at the original Pops Concert, which was a success. The decline of interest in this affair, however, soon made an increase in price necessary, until it reached a point where the Pops no longer did what it was intended to do. It has now been abandoned in favor of another concert which may prove more interesting to Tech men.

The Musical Clubs are still looking for a solution to the problem of giving popular concerts to the students of Tech, and any constructive suggestions to that end will be more than welcome. I might add that THE TECH could be of more service by trying to improve the support of our present activities before it attempts to bring new ones into the already overcrowded social life at M. I. T.

(Signed) Robert Sanders '31.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of the letter quoted above is in error not only as to the purpose of the editorial in question, but

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as to its actual subject-matter. In the first place, no statement was made "that the authorities at Tech were looking for someone to replace Mr. Whiting." What the editorial said was that "there has been some fruitless discussion" on the subject. "Among students" might have been added, if it had been thought necessary.  
 As to the formation of another orchestra, this suggestion was not only not presented as (Continued on Page Four)

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