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

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FREE CIGARS

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strict adherence to the letter of the section would permit electioneering in any form which did not directly attempt to form voting blocks and which did not take place at the polls. The abbreviation "etc." furnishes the grounds for the all-inclusive decision of the Executive Committee which prohibits electioneering in any form whatever. Whether under this ruling THE TECH would be allowed to publish the qualifications of each candidate as it did in the spring of 1928, is questionable. Trusting that a more liberal attitude will be taken by the Executive Committee this year, plans are being made to release this information about the candidates for major offices this spring.

In today's Open Forum appear letters from two men interested in amending this section to permit electioneering in what may be called its milder forms. The text of the amendment is not at hand, but it would appear that the countenancing of these activities would not precipitate immediate political scheming and spoils systems, but would rather create some interest in student elections. It is generally recognized that elections at Technology are half-hearted affairs. The chairman of the Elections Committee estimates that possibly, but not probably, half of the qualified students cast their ballots in class elections. The first of Mr. Kresser's reasons for the circulation of the petition is very likely the reason why so few men manifest any interest in the election of their class officers. Our own case may be typical: after having been at the Institute two years we failed to recognize eight of the eighteen nominees for Junior Prom Committee. To those less acquainted with student affairs, the percentage of unknowns must have been even larger. Electioneering would at least acquaint the students with the qualifications of the candidates and might in some measure decrease student indifference. If so, either an amendment to the By-Laws or a more liberal interpretation of the specific section is in order.

Complete release from all restraint on electioneering would be a radical move at this time. When student politics are not governed in any way, campus conditions may become as bad as those accompanying certain municipal elections. Vote-swapping, mudslinging, and other attendant evils come to the surface soon after the beginning of a hot political battle. Where feeling runs high during the active political season, the battles begun in campaigns may carry over into later periods and result in the development of cliques and warring campus groups. Technology is remarkably free from such divisions now, and anything which would tend to break the student body into antagonistic groups must be avoided. However, some small amount of "politicking" would be a tonic for a student spirit that annually suffers from spring fever.

Under present conditions one dares not recommend a candidate to his closest friend for fear of having him disqualified for electioneering. As we interpret the action of the Executive Committee of last spring, no electioneering at all may be done. A more elastic interpretation of the "etc." is needed, and if such an interpretation is not made by the Executive Committee in the form of a statement of what will be permitted, the amendment appears to offer the best solution.

Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the student body for approval, but as the regulations governing elections are a part of the By-Laws, they may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Institute Committee at any meeting, as stated in the next article in that part of the By-Laws. A petition has no value except as an expression of student opinion. A statement of a liberal interpretation of Section 17 which would permit the undergraduates to become acquainted with the qualifications of the candidates would meet with general approval, but if the Executive Committee does not feel free to make such an interpretation of the section, an amendment of the section offers a ready solution to the question.

OPEN FORUM

Electioneering

To the Editor of THE TECH:

Dear Sir: A group of undergraduates has circulated a petition for an amendment to the Constitution which shall allow electioneering and group voting in undergraduate elections. The reasons for the petition are briefly as follows:

- 1. At present most men vote without knowing much about the candidates or what they represent. This could be corrected by electioneering.
2. There is at present almost no general interest in the elections and even a very considerable apathy concerning student affairs. It is to be hoped that the encouragement of active campaigns would change this.
3. The student body has so few mutual interests that the effect of a little political excitement might be very useful in getting various groups acquainted.
4. The very nature of the fraternities makes group voting almost compulsory for them, so that the rule against voting blocks discriminates against outside students and dormitory men who could only be organized by active campaigning.

In view of these facts I believe that the proposed amendment would be a very good thing and deserves the support of the student body when it comes to a vote.

Yours truly, T. KRESSER '34.

More Comment on Electioneering

To the Editor of THE TECH:

Dear Sir: A night or two ago, a small group of Dormitory men suspended their academic activities a few minutes for what is commonly termed a "bull session." The talk drifted to politics, and, in the discussion that followed, it was generally agreed that something was radically wrong with the student government at Technology. It has been called one of the most successful student governments in

any American college, but so is the King of England one of the most successful monarchs in the world; one has about as much real importance as the other.

Handbooks were dragged from dusty corners, where the porter's broom never seems to flourish, and Section 17 of Article IV in the Constitution was selected as the root of all the evil. This section prohibits electioneering at the polls, and the formation of voting blocks, but it has been interpreted to include all electioneering. The suggestion was made that this section could be amended, and a minute later typewriters could be heard in all directions, pounding out petitions for the undergraduates to sign that requested the removal of this section from the Constitution.

At present, voters go blindly to the polls with absolutely no idea whom they should vote for, or why. If some friend of theirs is running, they vote for him; if not, they are likely not to vote at all. What Technology needs is a few red-hot political campaigns that will raise even the most confirmed brownbaggers from their apathy, and tell them that they are still alive. Bring on the soap boxes and campaign cigars!

To the circulators of this petition, '34 and '35 have responded nobly. The upperclassmen, while more conservative on the whole, have in several instances become quite enthusiastic. One of them said that whether the amendment was made or not, the discussion that it will cause cannot help but have a beneficial effect on the present situation.

Incidentally, the fellows that started this petition wish it to be known that they have no intention of changing the name of the Harvard Bridge, or of taking any drastic measures in regard to final examinations.

Very truly yours, MAURICE E. AVERY '35.



Lest the Lounger forget his role of Jester listen to this tale of Bill (who had a drag).

Item One: Bill, as behooves all good Tech men and true, was employed as a plumber's helper one summer. He was sweating away on the top floor of a house, when his boss who was in the cellar shouted up the shaft, "Bill, toss down the screw driver and the hammer." "Okay," yelled Bill, "Here they go." Down went the screwdriver. The boss leaned into the shaft and ordered, "Never mind the hammer." Alas, to relate; too late, too late, the hammer was on its way. Sock! Off the boss's bean it bounced. With a mighty growl of rage, up the front stairs he started, while Bill sneaked down the back stairs and went home!

Lucky for Bill he had a drag! He kept his job, strange to relate. Later they were working putting up heavy soil pipe. Since they were in a hurry, instead of pouring each joint, they stacked them high, intending to pour all the joints at once. Bill was again in the attic balanced on a beam and placing the last length of pipe. In his hurry, he fumbled and the whole stack swayed. Nervously trying to steady it, he slipped off the beam and to the Boss's horror, Bill's Size Nines went through the laths and broke out the newly-laid ceiling underneath. To cap the climax, over went the pipes and they, too, smashed their devastating course through the ceiling.

After these mishaps Bill determined to be careful. He was working on the second floor of an unfinished house. Only the rough flooring was laid, and there were wide cracks. Bill had a little pot of melted lead beside him. To protect the floor from the possibility of burning it he balanced the hot ladle of molten lead on a little block of wood and went to work industriously. The boss carpenter was working underneath him, smoothing out a new window sill. Yes, you guessed it! Suddenly, wild screams burst out below. Bill looked down to see the carpenter running around in circles, howling with pain and

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As We See the MOVIES

LOEW'S STATE "Arsene Lupin"

When all is said and done, the Barrymores, John and Lionel, remain members of our small company of real actors. Of late, John has been showing the Barrymore profile too much, and acting too little; but in "Arsene Lupin," he acts, and with success.

The story is an adaptation of an old play. The theme is the more or less familiar one of a master criminal and a police detective; John does the thief, Lionel the detective. Of the two, it seemed to us that Lionel does a bit the better job; he is not handsome, and can concentrate on his acting; John could not resist the temptation to exhibit his profile while clasping the beautiful maiden to his breast.

The picture opens with the usual Hollywood claptrap of shrieking sirens, police teletypes, cars dashing through the night loaded with uniforms, and so forth. For the rest of the time the director restrains himself, and we are treated to a piece of acting the like of which we see too seldom nowadays. The Barrymores make an excellent team.

A good supporting cast adds to the enjoyment of the occasion; when the Barrymores do a thing, they do it well. Except for an "Our Gang" comedy that is worse than usual, the program is excellent.

C. W. S.

R.K.O.-BOSTON "The Big Timer"

This week's outstanding personalities to be presented in person at the Keith-Boston are winsome Sue Carol and her husband, Nick Stuart, popularly known on the West Coast as "Hollywood's Sweethearts." Turning from films to footlights, the pair are introduced first on the screen, where they discuss their vaudeville skit. Then they step out onto the stage to continue the discussion in the flesh.

The act is filled with wise-cracks, each taking the other for a ride. At times it was rather difficult to tell whether they were on the stage to amuse themselves or the audience. After satisfying one's curiosity as to the personalities of these two film stars, their show becomes boring

because of the monotonous dialogue and lack of action. Preceding the act of Sue Carol and Nick Stuart were several others, somewhat entertaining.

On the screen the presentation is "The Big Timer," an old story with new clothes and a few variations. It is acted by Ben Lyon, Constance Cummings, and Tommy Dugan.

Lyon, a promising prize-fighter, marries his manager, Miss Cummings, and goes to New York to try his luck. Under his wife's able instruction he is well on his way to the championship when he meets a society siren, Thelma Todd, and goes the way of all flesh. His wife leaves him and before many months he is just another pug, fighting for his "ham and," and taking the full count. As it should be in a melodrama, a reconciliation with his wife, who is now a big fight manager, is effected in the end.

I. S. B.

(Continued on page four)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.

OF THE TECH, published tri-weekly at Cambridge, Massachusetts, for April 1st, 1932. State of Massachusetts, County of Middlesex.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared D. B. Smith, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of THE TECH and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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2. All equipment owned by the Tech Trust Fund, Cambridge, Massachusetts and rented by the current issue of Officers: Mr. H. B. Lobdell, M.I.T., Cambridge; Mr. H. D. Jones, Providence, R. I.; Mr. J. K. Killian, Jr., M.I.T., Cambridge; Mr. A. W. K. Billings, Jr., Boston, Massachusetts.

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5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is: (This information is required from daily publications only.)

DAVID B. SMITH, Business Manager. Sworn to and subscribed before me this eighth day of March, 1932.

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