



Vol. LV

MARCH 29, 1935

No. 15

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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News and Editorial—Room 3, Walker Memorial, Cambridge, Mass.
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Business—Room 301, Walker
 Telephone KIRKland 1881

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.80 Per Year

Published every Tuesday and Friday during the College year,
 except during College vacation

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Boston Post Office
 Member Eastern Intercollegiate Newspaper Association

Night Editor This Issue: Ruth G. Raftery, '38

AVOIDING THE ISSUE

FEDERAL HOUSING

A survey of what has been done during this administration to provide decent homes for the many thousand dwellers in the squalid slums of American cities leads to the conclusion that not only has little actually been achieved in rehousing slum dwellers, but the government program now being promoted does not include rehousing for the low income groups, which need help more than any others. There are thousands of dark and ill-ventilated tenement houses in New York, Boston, Chicago, and other cities of the United States where actual living standards are tragically low because the houses themselves are far below a decent standard. It is these sub-standard houses which need to be demolished and replaced, and it was for these people that the slum clearance program was started.

In Boston it is commonly accepted that the proposed housing scheme for the west end of Beacon Hill will serve, not the present tenants, but an entirely new group, composed chiefly of white collar workers. Those slum dwellers now living in the district would be absorbed in equally bad slums adjoining the rebuilt district. In fact, the sponsors of the program frankly state that a first step in the program would be to make a survey determining if enough apartments were available in the surrounding slum district to enable those now living in the slum clearance area to push back further into their squallor, while the white collar man is comfortably settled in the new housing scheme.

It is obvious that the actual results of such housing programs are far from the vision that the progressive student of city planning would wish for. The fundamental basis of the need for housing projects is expressed by the executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials. He asks the question, "Indeed is not the almost inevitable preliminary to a public housing program the spot map blanketing areas of bad housing with cases of crime, disease, delinquency, desertion, and other municipally expensive social ills?" It is the unfortunate people who must live in a socially plagued district who need the help of the government, and not the white collar man whose present living conditions are already far above the slum standard.

Our answer to the question "What should the Federal Housing Policy be?" is that of Carol Aronovici, a leading housing authority in this country. He says: "The whole of the architectural profession, in so far as it is capable of originality and skill in reducing building costs, has been at work trying to bring housing construction for the lower income groups within the range of possibility. They have failed and will continue to fail, because all the facts of cost are against them. There is only one alternative left, and that is a fuller recognition on the part of the government that it will have to bridge the gap between wages and rents by a more liberal use of public money. We have enough information and experience to know that housing for the lower income groups cannot be made to pay unless the housing is of low grade or the government is prepared to meet the loss. Why not face the issue and decide whether we want better housing at any cost or are merely talking and quibbling to keep up our satisfaction with good intentions and to fool the workers into expecting relief which will never come?"

OPEN FORUM

In opening its columns to letters addressed to the Editor, THE TECH does not guarantee publication nor does it necessarily endorse the opinions expressed. Only signed communications will be considered. However, if the writer so desires, only the initials will appear on publication.

To the Editor of THE TECH:

The Tech N.S.L. is an anachronism. It is a religion and a fetish, its members guided by religious fervor and impatient of facts: all this in a school which is noted for its scientific attitude, its dispassionate interpretation yet high regard for facts. We might expect emotionalism and an appeal to fundamental human rights from the liberal students up the river; we look for more rational behaviour from Tech men.

The Communists and the Socialists see only the faults of Capitalism. They continually harp on the exploitation of the worker, on the vices of big business men, and on the evils of profits, and wonder why they gain such little sympathy. Such essentially emotional appeals may be effective to the workers, but the N.S.L. must see that it is hardly applicable to college men who, if they are prejudiced in any way, are certainly against the laborer, but who might very conceivably react to reason. Most of those who are at heart in sympathy with the ideals of the radicals are frightened by their very irrationality. They feel it better to suffer conditions as they are than to put themselves in the hands of such crackpots. And the fact that the Marxian economists do demonstrate real power in the analysis of Capitalism (especially in pointing out the seemingly inevitable collapse of a system which tries to pay the worker one equivalent of only a part of what he produces and yet sell to him all the results of his labor) is so obscured by jingoism that it helps matters not the slightest.

If the N.S.L. would really analyze the situation it would find something more or less like this: that no Tech man would assert that the working classes are at present well off; that few would claim that all bankers or captains of industry are honest or intelligent; that only a minority would say that the profit motive in the sense of a desire for the accumulation of wealth for other purposes than mere livelihood, seldom leads to evil; that only a slight majority would maintain that it is possible to pay the laborer half his produce and sell him all. Furthermore, it would see that none wants to keep the worker in his poverty or considers it impossible for the government to do something about it; that few would preserve the bankers at all costs, that only a minority would insist that the only effectual motivating power was the profit motive (i.e., they would admit that, after the subsistence level has been reached, profits are merely a means toward self-expression and the desire for power, and that these motivations may exist in a Socialistic society); and only a slight majority would oppose the claim that Socialism would remedy the problem of underconsumption.

Thus far, the N.S.L. and most Tech men are in agreement. They admit the existence of the problem, and the possibility and desirability of correcting it. Both have decided what to do: find an answer; but they are at swords points over how to do it. The N.S.L. continues to storm fortresses already tottering, while in the front line of the battle it is satisfied to lead by the mere exhortation "Over there lies the goal. Communism is the objective." They think this answers the question "How?" Here they are just kidding themselves. The Tech man does not want a name with which to conjure; he wants methods.

And of all the things the N.S.L. member knows least about and spouts least about, it is the methods by which he expects to attain his Utopia. He does not seem to recognize that the old hulk of capitalism, ever since the birth of trade, has floated on the seas of price levels. Somehow, a means of evaluating factors of production must be used if economic or rational management is to be pursued. Somehow, indications from the consumer as to what he wants and when he wants it must be at hand if the consumer is to be satisfied. And, if the capital market is to be discarded, something must be substituted. Ask any rabid N.S.L.'er "What?" and see how far you get. He does not know and seemingly never gave the matter a moment's thought.

The N.S.L. might well amass all the evidence it can on this subject from Soviet Russia—what statistical data is deemed necessary for artificial-rigging of a market, and how it is collected and analyzed. It might try to suggest an improvement and adaptation to America. Certainly Russia is not perfect for it is essentially because of the breakdown in the artificial market, technically or intentionally, that machinery has been over-utilized in a land of cheap labor: that goods have been doled out arbitrarily on a quota basis; and that the population has starved for the sake of future productivity. The knowledge thus gained could be broadcasted to the student body with the assurance that it would gain an interested audience, with the probability that it would enlighten many, and with the possibility that it would earn a goodly number of converts. Incidentally, it would prepare the members for constructive leadership should their revolution of the proletariat ever come and would put them well out of the classification of crackpots which they now so justly deserve.

(Signed) R. F. J.



Tech Show

Ye Lounger turned First Nighter Wednesday evening to bring you disinterested impressions of that gala event when Tech men throw aside their inhibitions and wear skirts. DON'T throw that brick. As we were saying, we feel that it would be to the interests of all to present a description of Tech Show which is NOT written by a publicity department, and which is NOT influenced by the prospects of free passes.

So there we were, in the third row, on the hardest seats that ever tortured average persons without-excessive-padding. Brought back memories of the days when we writhed and groaned for PT McCarthy. Tech Show will have to do something about those chairs. Some people are sensitive about things like that.

As for the show itself, with the exception of a number of purely routine faults, we found it entirely deserving of the applause it received. Outside of too many encores consisting of a repetition of the same number, major faults were lacking.

False Conclusions

We would like to comment on the fact that most of the young ladies seemed to have a very mistaken impression as to the nature of the show, to judge by the varied noises with which they greeted the very innocent lines in the first acts. After their escorts had set them straight, they followed the policy of waiting until the men's thoraty chuckling told them that it was all right to emit shocked gasps.

Second Snapshots

The incredulous screams that greeted the "Minsky" chorus . . . ninety per cent of the young ladies asking, "Wouldn't you go for that one?" of their escorts. . . the chorus gal losing her wig . . . the buzzer and the orchestra . . . sounds of Flit-spraying between acts? . . . the radio continuing to operate for a second or so after being shut off . . . pennies being thrown to the cast . . . Gwen's eyes, and Dinwiddie's hands . . . the effective technique of Voo Doers, making students feel like pikers if they buy the one and only Voo Doo.

Tech Show

(Continued from Page 1)

tumblings, and when he is finally made to talk by odors expelled by the Lever Brothers' enterprise.

We cannot tell you of all the cast, including the competently surly John P. Allen, '36, as Professor Moppit, bashful Dinwiddie played by C. L. Austin, '36, et al.

The story involves the attempts of the aforementioned Prof. Dinwiddie to run for President of these U. S., and the Insidious Plot of the Opposition (Moppit) to ensnare the naive professor with the help of the all too willing Gwen.

Credit, if given properly, must be given with a lavish hand, and first to Langdon Matthews' hose handling of Technology's shaven legged Bull Moose is much to be held in awe.

Lighting and scenery too are artistically and conscientiously done.

In the absence of the Professor Bill Greene, the members of Tech Show have put together a performance which does them noble credit.

Retirements

(Continued from Page 1)

entered Technology as a special student in the mechanic arts. Later he taught this subject in the public schools of Brookline for a year and then became an instructor in the Boston Farm and Trade School, where he remained until 1901, when he joined the staff of Technology.

Reviews and Previews

METROPOLITAN

Jack Benny, adjudged radio's funniest comedian, and Mary Livingston, (incidentally, his wife) take the stage honors this week, with Claudette Colbert in "Private Worlds" on the screen. Charles Boyer, Joan Bennett, Joel McCrea are in the film.

RKO BOSTON

"Princess O'Hara", Damon Runyan's yarn of the dashing debonair young sportsman and taxi company owner who becomes involved in a raging taxi war much against his own will, and of the little Irish girl who is implicated in the theft of a famous race horse, features Chester Morris and Jean Parker in the leading roles.

Owen McGivney, distinguished actor, heads the vaudeville show of five acts.

LOEW'S STATE

"Vanessa, Her Love Story" stars Helen Hayes and Robert Montgomery in Hugh Walpole's romantic London drama. Otto Kruger and May Robson assist.

"The Casino Murder Case" brings Paul Lukas to the screen for the third time in a portrayal of S. S. Van Dine's Philo Vance. This is the latest adventure of the intrepid snooper.

PARAMOUNT-FENWAY

"Gold Diggers of 1935", star-studded musical comedy features Dick Powell, Gloria Stuart, Adolphe Menjou, and Alice Brady. Three of today's popular songs are sung by Dick and Gloria: "Lullaby of Broadway", "The Words Are in My Heart", "I'm Going Shopping With You."

"Behind the Evidence" gives you the strange adventures of a newspaper reporter as a result of his first big assignment.

KEITH MEMORIAL

With the inimitable dancing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, the singing of Irene Dunne, and a display of attractive torsos by their possessors, "Roberta" enters its third and final week, still playing to record audiences.

LOEW'S ORPHEUM

"The Wedding Night", with Anna Sten and Gary Cooper, depicts the experiences of a modern American girl in her revolt against the dictates and restraints of tradition and strict parental rule. Siegfried Rumann, Ralph Bellamy, and Helen Vinson are in the supporting cast. Another bill of Orpheum vaudeville accompanies the film.

MODERN

"The Mystery Man" with Robert Armstrong and Maxine Doyle, deals with the adventures of a live-wire newspaper reporter.

UPTOWN

Rudy Vallee's "Sweet Music" with Ann Dvorak and "The Good Fairy" with Margaret Sullavan, and Herbert Marshal are co-featured.

FINE ARTS

"The Unfinished Symphony", exceptional portrayal of Schubert's life, is featured under the auspices of the Adult Education Council.

MAJESTIC

"The Runaway Queen" with Anna Neagle is now showing.

PLYMOUTH

Ina Claire in "Ode to Liberty" closes tomorrow.

SHUBERT

"A Journey by Night" opens Monday evening with Greta Maren.

Professor Frederick H. Bailey has been a member of the instructing staff of the Institute since 1891. He was born in Leominster, Mass., and received his early education in the public schools of Fitchburg. He was graduated from Harvard University in the class of 1887, and received the degree of master of arts there in 1889.

For the following two years he served as assistant instructor in mathematics at Harvard, and then came to Technology as an instructor. He was appointed assistant professor in 1893, associate professor in 1904, and professor in 1907.

PROM CORSAGES

AUGUST

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