

# The Tech

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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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## NOTE WELL

LISTEN CAREFULLY

What is probably the favorite indoor sport of inexperienced men at the Institute is the taking of copious and burdensome notes. How often these men spend their lecture hours, not listening to the important words of the speaker, but engaging in a stenographic speed test with the lecturer's delivery.

The average lecturer at the Institute designs his talks to embrace several thousand words an hour. The utter hopelessness of attempting to cope with this output becomes immediately apparent. Too often the toiling copyist finds at the end of the lecture a maze of unintelligible notes and no recollection whatsoever of the matter covered in the discussion. The proper technique of auditing is to listen with the ears and not the fingers.

It is indispensable to get a clear and concise conception of vital points covered in the lecture even at the expense of myriad detail. Listen intelligently; and in small lecture groups, do not hesitate to question the speaker on any point not immediately apparent.

The notetaker cannot possibly hope to equal the competency of the textbook and notes of lectures should be a supplement not a substitute for the prescribed reading. Men who get high marks earn them with discretion not with pencil lead.

## SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM

SHOULD BE TAUGHT AT TECHNOLOGY

Scientific reporting has become an important feature of modern journalism. Interest in the practical applications of research has led to a wide public demand for accurate and informative news about the activities of scientists all over the world. With the increase in the number of newspaper readers who have graduated from high schools and colleges there has been established an interest in theoretical news, which can be expected to become comprehensible to an even greater number of readers in the future.

The importance to engineers, and especially to researchers, of publicity for their scientific projects is not small. First, it develops in the public an awareness of and appreciation of scientific work, and a demand for new products. And of incalculable value to the scientist who must depend on public subscriptions for the financing of his projects, are the subscribers who are won over or encouraged by news stories. Exactly how vital publicity is to the scientist may be gleaned by the fact that Technology and similar scientific organizations commonly employ news "directors" to present to the world accurate accounts of the research in progress at their respective institutions.

If then, the newspaper is a vital agent of publicity for the scientist and a valuable source of important scientific information for the layman, it is important that scientific news be presented in a form both palatable and authoritative. For this job both the ordinary news reporter with no scientific training and the scientist with no journalistic talent are not qualified. A new reporter must emerge who will combine broad scientific knowledge with an ability to interpret technical facts to a lay public, and who can recognize human values in a new electron theory or a harder steel.

There exist today few organizations which give such a training to aspiring scientific reporters. In general, newspapers either send their writers to glean a superficial knowledge of science, or the writers get along with what knowledge they have.

Why should not Technology, with its broad general science course and its adequate English department become a pioneer educator of scientific journalists? With facilities already on hand, and well-trained teachers available, scientific journalism would at the Institute attain its rightful position as an adjunct, and an important, adjunct, to scientific research and engineering application.

## PEACE

THROUGH PEACE

With the impending war crisis averted for a little while anyway, we have time in which to think over the situation calmly and truthfully if we will. For the last few weeks and months we have been held from rational consideration of the problems by the very fear of it, but with a little trouble we should be able to work out an equitable and peaceful solution.

Primarily, as we are interested in living ourselves, we are interested in peaceful settlements. If we are to focus on the entire problem, we find the potent fact that where there is seemingly a desire for war it is engendered by something worse than war, starvation.

There are but two ways to keep a starving man or a starving country from fighting for food, and according to American standards it is better to see that he can get food than to shoot him. If we were to conclude that the only way to keep peace would be to fight Germany's ambitious battle for prosperity, we would be defeating our own purpose.

Even mathematical problems may have two answers, but the mathematician is sometimes smarter than the statesman and goes back over all the evidence instead of accepting a conclusion that is at odds with his premises.

We do not have the solution, but we are certain that there is a peaceful road to peace.

## WITH OTHER EDITORS

WORKING THEIR WAY

Practically every educational institution in the United States has a number of students "working their way", partially or entirely, through college.

If you asked any one of the students on the campus just how much working his way through meant to him, he would probably say, "Well, I'm getting an education".

Various persons feel that the student who doesn't have to worry about finances will be more successful after leaving college because for four years he has accumulated a great deal of technical knowledge and is ready to "set fire to the world".

Perhaps this is true. But the student who pays his own way sees college through different glasses. When a working student graduates he finds that the world "outside" is more or less the same as when he was an undergraduate. Whereas the parent-dependent student must necessarily "buy a new pair of glasses", the working student substitutes a pair without tinted lenses.

The student who must of necessity balance his own budget will know how to make ends meet after graduation. He will not be upset by routine because he has been on a four-year schedule and should be acquainted with routine.

Of course, there are disadvantages, but very few students overburden themselves so much that a good night's sleep won't restify it.

But working in college has advantages that can do any individual a great deal of good after graduation.

First, he learns to be independent.

Second, he learns to adjust his energy to accomplish all the things he undertakes.

Third, he isn't shocked when he leaves college and finds that all sheepskins do not contain sheep.—The Iowa State Student.

## Chess Club Holds Open Meeting; Adams Speaks

The M.I.T. Chess Club held an open meeting in the East Lounge of Walker Saturday afternoon, in which freshmen were introduced to the activities of the society. The program included an address given by Weaver W. Adams, Technology '23, now the chess champion of Massachusetts, who advanced the theory that the person who played white would always win a perfectly played chess game.

Following Mr. Adams' speech, Herbert Jaffe, '40, former club president, spoke on the facilities offered by the club and described the type of instruction that would be given to beginners.

### Cherry Describes Bumping Board

Vice-President William H. Cherry then gave an account of the intra-club "bumping" board tournaments; he is anticipating an intercollegiate match and a radio match with a foreign country.

## Field Day Dance

(Continued from page 1)

room. Special permission is being obtained from the Board of Licenses to allow the Hotel Statler to remain open until three o'clock. When tickets are redeemed it will be possible to reserve tables in the outer room in which the bar is located.

Music for the affair will be provided by both a swing and a sweet band, Glenn Miller and his well-known hot band will play part of the time, while Nye Mayhew will provide sweet rhythms during the remainder of the evening.

### Miller Former Arranger

Miller, who played for the Sophomore Dance here last year, has been composer-arranger for many noted swing organizations, among them Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Ray Noble, and Glen Gray. He recently concluded a protracted engagement at the Paradise Cafe, when he also had a daily radio program over the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Mayhew, who will present the evening's conservative dance music, is already well known in Boston, having spent the past two winter seasons at the Hotel Statler. His band spent the summer of 1937 at the Glen Island Casino, famous suburban New York resort, where such organizations as Guy Lombardo, Ozzie Nelson, the Dorsey Brothers, Glen Gray, and Larry Clinton have played.

### Merriman Heads Committee

Thurston S. Merriman, '39, is chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements for the dance. The other members, all Juniors, are W. Happer Farrell, Edward M. Wallace, Norman R. Klivans, Edward D. Crosby and L. Hurley Bloom.

## Reviews and Previews

**SYMPHONY**—The second pair of concerts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Serge Koussevitzky, conductor, will take place in Symphony Hall next Friday afternoon and Saturday evening. The programme will open with a Divertimento in B flat, K. No. 287, by Mozart, written in six parts for four string instruments and two horns. The first violin part of this divertimento was performed by the composer in Munich in 1777, the year in which the piece was composed. In the coming performances, the combined string sections will be used.

Aaron Copland's "El Salón México" will have its first Boston performance in the same programme. Copland wrote this rhapsody upon popular melodies which he heard during a sojourn in Mexico, and named it after a famous dance hall in Mexico City. "El Salón México" has been performed in Mexico City, and in London at the festival of contemporary music last summer. The symphony "From the New World", by Dvorák, the Czech composer, will complete the programme.

The series of six programmes by the Boston Symphony given on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons will begin October 24-25. Soloists who will appear include Myra Hess, English pianist, Georges Enesco and Ivor Stravinsky will each appear for one set of programmes.

**WILBUR**—What a Life, sparkling comedy written by Clifford Goldsmith and produced by George Abbott, stars Eddie Bracken in the role of the unfortunate lad who keeps getting into remarkably amusing scrapes. The last week.

**PLYMOUTH**—Ethel Barrymore proves that she is truly "queen of the American theatre" in her characterization of the hundred-year-old Gran in Mazo de la Roche's *Whiteoaks*, now in its last week. There will be a matinee performance tomorrow. Clifford Odets' *Golden Boy*, with Frances Farmer, Luther Adler, and Morris Carnovsky opens Monday for a three weeks' engagement.

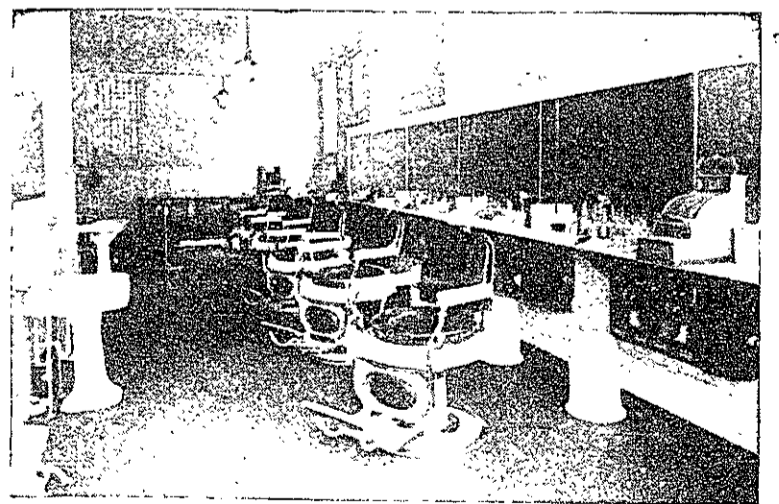
**SHUBERT**—Leave it to Me, latest Cole Porter musical, starring Victor Moore and William Gaxton, opens Monday. Sophie Tucker appears in this production.

**METROPOLITAN**—The Ritz Brothers are contagiously and lunatically funny in *Straight, Place, and Show*. Starting tomorrow, the program will be *If I Were King*, with Ronald Colman, Basil Rathbone, and Frances Dee.

**SCOLLAY AND MODERN**—Errol Flynn and Olivia DeHavilland in *Four's a Crowd* alternates here with *Valley of the Giants*.

**UNIVERSITY**—Today the double feature bill includes *Boy Meets Girl* and *Speed to Burn*. Tomorrow through Saturday, *Carefree* and *Secrets of an Actress* will be shown.

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