THREE DOLLARS' WORTH OF SAILING

Spring is officially here and with its advent comes the annual debate upon the feasibility of joining the Nautical Association for those who neglected to join last fall. By paying his dues now, a student signifies his intention of maturing into a man, and he will not have to pay the penalty for the privilege of using one of the half-handful of dinghies, provided that he has passed the necessary requirements.

Before any student can take ship with no previous sailing experience must undergo a waiting period of about two weeks during which he is initiated into the rules of the yachting profession, and must assimilate the necessary knowledge of winds, and sails, and sheets, and knots, and the mysterious phraseology of the nautical world. The balance sheet for such an investment shows on the debit side an expenditure of three dollars and two weeks of study to bring him up to an immediate current of four weeks of enjoyable sailing in the Tech dinghies, when that same expenditure, if made on the first of June, would permit the student to use the dinghies for an entire calendar year. Under the present arrangements, the potential sailor must shoulder this comparatively tremendous expense or forego the privilege of receiving shore school instruction until the fall of 1942. Such arrangements, the Nautical Association believes, are unfair, and the members of the Nautical Association; they pay their three dollars now to learn to sail and then they must pay another three dollars on June 1 if they are to reap any gains from their previous investment. A reorganization of the schedule of dues and dates of membership is proposed.

With Technology now operating under an accelerated schedule, there have been many changes made about which the students, due to some oversight, know very little. There are many questions regarding the changed schedule, courses, requirements for entrance, policies which could be cleared up very quickly if the student knew what sources to consult.

With this in mind The Tech, in cooperation with Institute authorities, has arranged to handle all questions and suggestions pertaining to the Editor column. In the past it has been the policy of The Tech to print all signed letters, anonymously if desired, in this column.

New members to the Nautical Association will be welcomed.

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