The fact that the freshman class is experimenting with the "honor" system raises the general consideration of cheating and similar practices. Through this whole discussion and the difficulties which we wish to consider—the copying of lab reports, term papers, homework, or quiz answers—it is obvious that such practices are not acceptable and that something must be done to correct this.

Two of the more noticeable features of such malpractices are the facts that the honest, conscientious student can suffer from the actions of a very few, and that all such practices could actually be curtailed through a much more realistic and intelligent handling of the problem.

In the realm of actual cheating on examinations, the most salient problem is that of good proctoring. If an examination is worth proctoring at all, it certainly should be worth proctoring well. This is easily done. An instructor can discourage cheating by merely positioning himself in the most advantageous position—that is, in the back of the quiz room. If the students are completely honest and do not intend to cheat, such action should not bother them. It is not a question of "trusting" the class, but rather that of protection from those who might have the intent.

Of almost equal importance as regards proctoring is the physical positioning of the students. The practice of scheduling examinations in drafting rooms should be extended as far as possible; the practice of allowing to admit anyone in a room like 10-120 should be discontinued immediately.

The Electrical Engineering Department has met this and other difficulties with the "Honor" system and is also a fact of the students' mark. Although in some enlightened classes, the homework does not count, in others it ranges from a weightage of 10% to 40% of the final grade. The idea of correcting homework and counting it in the final grade seems rather unnecessary, for the benefit which the student has derived from this work is sure to show up on his grade.

Cybernetics (Course 14.01) work applying his theories on control mechanisms (the automation pipe is an example), to electronic engineering, physiology, and even economics. The students are written a letter on the subject which he expects will be read out in time to the class. When questioned about the brain child, Professor Wiener, long known as Tech's short-sighted professor, puffed at his cigar and said, "It's been in the air for a long time, but the subject isn't really so new, you know, you've had a sort of mental automatism ever since there have been steering wheels on ships."