CONFUSION IN THE RECORD

One of the more interesting recent developments in consumer goods production was the announcement made at the beginning of the year by the Institute of Technology of the making of 78-r.p.m. playing records. Apparently not to be outdone by Columbia, who announced last year their long playing, microgroove record, the Institute has come forth with a disc that requires a turntable which revolves at 45 r.p.m. and a special pickup.

The standard speed of 78 r.p.m. for regular records is based on the assumption that revolution of the turntable mechanism is too heavy with pickups of considerable inertia. Seventy-eight r.p.m. is inefficient for the lighter electrical pick-ups, and radio stations have long maintained another standard of 33-1/3 r.p.m. for their transmissions. When Columbia released its new recording system they adopted the 33-1/3 r.p.m. standard and reduced the playing groove to 0.001 inch, permitting the groove density of about 500 per inch. Columbia also offered its process to any manufacturer who wanted to use it, including R.C.A. Now R.C.A. comes out with still a third speed, uses Columbia's groove width of one ten-thousandth of an inch or .0001 inch, and presents a new record changing mechanism built into an enlarged spindle which can change the seven-inch record in a matter of three seconds. According to one R.C.A. official, that the record fan can listen to forty-five minutes of nearly uninterrupted music. This is hardly an improvement on the twelve inch long-playing records which will do the same thing with only one break provided one is willing to go to the trouble of turning the disc over.

When the R.C.A. system is released next April, there will be three different systems confronting the record purchaser, none of them interchangeable. R.C.A. has been defending their system by promising that it is the only competition, but what is more likely, the consumer will suffer from the abandonment of standardization. Rather than leaving the consumer free to choose record by his individual needs, the three systems will force him to choose on the basis of the machine he owns.

Any duplication of equipment will be nothing but wasteful. R.C.A. has been accepted by a great number of connoisseurs, and it requires no changing mechanism which, traditionally, is subject to fits of temperament. R.C.A. seems to be trying to put something over on record buyers; personally, we won't have anything to do with their system.

## Teachers Formed Union

**United with the A.F. of L.**

There are labor unions; there are trade unions; there are even teacher's unions. Represented at the Institute is such an organization under the chairmanship of Professor John Bruck. Local 604 of the American Federation of Teachers was chartered by seven instructors of the Institute in December 1949. Originally several members of the faculty attended the independent Harvard Union, but at that time they believed that the local had no problem to face except to organize a Technology Local.

When It Began

At its outset the Technology Teacher's Union was fairly well represented. According to Professor Bruck, there were faculty members, however, who felt that it was not the place of the teaching profession to participate in an organization which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and is the Teacher's Union. The union was overwhelmingly interested in instructor's tenure of office and civil liberties.

Pretty Paula Kelly

T.C.A. Secretary, To Marry Senior

Miss Paula Kelly, popular T.C.A. secretary, is engaged. For those Techmen who are undoubtedly disappointed at this announcement; we quickly add that the news came by cable from Boston, where Miss Kelly is attending Boston University. The couple plan to marry some time next month after Paula receives his degree in Course XV of the School of Fine Arts. We extend our heartiest congratulations to the two.

Until further notice, the agenda of the next meeting of the Institute Senate will be as follows:

**AGENDA**

Not very long ago the Tech ran the minutes of the Institute Committee on Rules and Grievances. Shortly thereafter, the column was dropped. On page four of this issue, we are inaugurating a new experiment in bringing school politics to the student body. Unless the response is enthusiastic, it is probable that the column will be continued only for one issue. The Institute Committee will be published in the Friday issue preceding each meeting. We hope that this publicity will enable students to keep abreast of their own government's goings-on and protect their own interests when they are involved.

### OUR EDITORIAL BOARD

The new Editor of the Tech has been an organization devoted to the elevation of big wheels to yet another position. This situation was all very good for the wheels themselves, but the broad challenge was whether the members of the board had some sort of personal interest in getting some plan across.

From now on things will be different. We're still going to have an Editorial Board, but members will contribute to the running of the paper either by actually writing material or by serving as active sources of editorial matter. Initial appointments to the rejuvenated Board are Dale O. Cooper '51, Thomas L. Hiltz '49, Daniel L. McGuinness, Jr. '50, and Fred Vander- schmidt, '51.

### Confusion in the Record

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