OOPS!
It seems that we spoke a bit too hastily when we asked for an Easter vacation a few weeks ago. Apparently what we really want after all is a Spring Break. At any rate, it has been called to our attention that some college colleges in the East have rather arbitrary Spring vacations, and they make no attempt to correlate them with the Easter season.

The Committee on Academic Affairs considered the vacation schedules of a number of Eastern colleges when they recommended that the recess be a "full week following the seventh week of the term," although the reason they gave for this choice was that it would put our vacation near the middle of the term. This is evidently what most colleges do.

By a coincidence, Easter has some very close parallels to this for the past two years, so that anyone at Technology, which has observed the Patriots' Day vacation during that time, might get the impression that the local schools were actually enjoying an Eastern vacation. We are quite sure that the academic directors of the secondary schools actually do consider the ecclesiastical calendar when planning their own.

Will the school holidays, Christmas seems to be the only one about which there is virtually unanimous agreement. One can be pretty sure that no matter where one matriculates one will have a vacation at least from December 24 through January 1. About our own Yuletime the Committee recommended, "The Christmas recess be from the Saturday before Christmas to the Sunday after New Year's Day, inclusive, except when Christmas falls on Sunday or Monday when the recess shall be from the Thursday before Christmas to the Tuesday after New Year's Day.

We can see that the committee is thinking about the holidays in terms of the Yuletime, which recognizes the fact that many students will take an extra day or two off in order to gain a "long weekend" when a holiday falls on a Wednesday. If we know Techmen, however, they will probably continue to ebb an extra day from their holidays.

We sometimes hear complaints about the length of the inter-term vacation, a whal say, "Believe this, or else."

Christmas, many students would prefer to have a few of these vacation days shifted to the beginning or the end of the school year to shorten it. These days are not wasted, however; they are used by registration officers to get a lot of paper work out of the way before registration day, as well as for compilation of marks for the report cards. In a number of colleges, registration takes as many as three days. One registers either by last initial or by course at the appropriate time; and if one name is not enough to be at the end of the list, one simply waits around for several days after the registration formalities until classes start. By giving the registration officers time to close the books in advance of Christmas vacation dates, we manage to cut down the time necessary for registration procedures to less than a day.

SHADOWLAND
It's been a long time since we've commented on the Russians in these columns so when we ran into an item about the two flyers in the Red Air Force who made their way west in a balloon, we thought it might be worth mention. One of the two complained that newswomen interviewing the pair often wanted him to paint a dark picture of doings behind the iron curtain, and the other actually did it. Apparently, he painted his face black, and the black "I paint it that way," he said, "But everything is not black!"

Perhaps it takes someone from a totalitarian state to appreciate the real democracy there is no one forcing a doctrine on the individual, a real whal say, "Believe this, or else."

We are free to examine all sides of any question, and it is our privilege and duty to distinguish black, white, and gray (not to mention pink and crimson).