IF THIS BE BIAS, MAKE THE MOST OF IT

Word has reached us that there is a strong impression among fraternity men that The Tech's editorial policy is anti-fraternity. The basis for this idea seems to be two editorials that appeared in the recent past. Both stated that the fraternities (1) pledge new men in the spring after they have been at Technology for nearly a year, and (2) accept the administration's proposal that they move into houses but then continue to live in dormitories instead of on their own. Neither of these suggestions, however, have any intrinsic anti-fraternity elements.

We are guided by two postulates in our attitudes toward the principle of fraternization, 1) the interests and welfare of the student body as a whole is more important than the interests of the fraternities as organizations, and 2) fraternities are works in progress. We feel that they provide certain benefits and advantages to their members. The first postulate is simply an expression of the good, old democratic ideal of majority rule, and the second rejects as meaningless the concept of organization for organization's sake. Within the framework of these two axioms, we believe that fraternities can play an important part in Technology life; indeed, the statement is so obviously true that it seems presumptuous for us to make it.

Now, nobody supposes that adoption of the two suggestions will be easy; any change is difficult to a degree, if only because of the inertia that is bound to overcome the system or moving the fraternities has all kinds of snags that will have to be ironed out. The thing to be considered, however, is the changes, when balanced against the obstacles that must be overcome, will bring benefits to the students and the Institute that are worth the effort.

Here is the point at which our opinion becomes debatable. We must face the fact that a major part of the freshman class and removing it from campus life and contact with the rest of the entering group is reflected in the relatively poor turnout for extra-curricular activities and school-wide social events at Technology. The fact is, that no other college we know of has rushing before the new men have started school. Many fraternities fear that such rush-week should be delayed until the spring term, the whole year will be wrecked by a cut-throat inter-fraternity competition for the most desirable pledges, but we fail to see how the present alternative of grabbing for new brothers in a hectic four days can be anything but a lottery in which as many good men are passed up as bad. The thing to be desired and plans a dormitory on campus housing is to be desired and plans a dormitory on campus.

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The arguments for housing the fraternities on this side of the river are much the same as those for delayed rushing. Again, catching new freshmen in a community as well as to go the same school. The details of the architecture of the new fraternity buildings can be worked out to the satisfaction of all parties although, for economic reasons, certain economies in the size and use of large buildings, have to be made. Actually, should the Institute decide that on-campus housing is to be desired and plans a dormitory on its own, the.? fraternities may very well find it exceedingly difficult to pledge enough members each year since many men will find the advantages of living right at Technology outweigh the second-hand and more expensive fraternities of fraternal life. Once men who once it would be to the ultimate good of the fraternities themselves, as well as the whole student body, for them to accept the principle of on-campus housing and to develop an approach as broad-mindedly as possible the problem of designing suitable buildings.

It would give The Tech great pleasure to be able to report new IPC rushing rules next April.