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Friday, February 26, 1954

Editorials

VICTORY

The Tech extends its congratulations to Edwin H. Kelley '55 on his election to the office of President of the Undergraduate Association. With him succeed, and pledge his every assistance in his new position.

AND A FEW SUGGESTIONS

In the course of the recent campaign, the candidates brought out several issues that will be of interest in the coming year, and offered some very constructive suggestions on a few of them. Now that the elections are over, it is possible to look back on these campaign statements and find the best of them.

One of the most delicate of all problems is that of discrimination. As has been discovered only too often in the Southern States, it is impossible to legislate human emotions. However, it is a school such as M.I.T., where not only every region of the country, but every region of the world is represented, there is no place for discrimination. At present, most of the fraternities that have discriminatory clauses are trying to persuade their national organizations to do away with the sections. It has been suggested, however, that the houses either get rid of the clause or leave the campus. In many cases this would mean resigning from the national organization, an action which some of the poorer houses simply cannot afford to take. Rather than issuing an ultimatum on this matter, therefore, it would seem better to try to eliminate the discriminatory clauses by "gentle forcefulness", with a limit of say, five years before more drastic action is taken.

Another problem that has been called to the attention of most students in the last year is that of Field Day and freshman-sophomore hazing. With regard to Field Day, the strategy of the last two years makes it evident that the glove fight rules must be better defined. Other than this one change, there is little wrong with Field Day itself. The question of freshman hazing is another one, however. In recent years, hazing at the Institute has deteriorated into an imature, adolescent desire to do someone else bodily harm for no particular reason other than "getting off steam".

Some attempt was made this past fall to alleviate this condition by the Institute Committee abolished "rides" and other forms of off-campus hazing. That is not enough; as hazing exists now, it is little more than a habit or a bad habit that can at times be extremely destructive and injurious.

A possible solution of the problem lies in the enforcement of freshman rules. These rules already exist, but are virtually ignored. Breaking of the rules, such as wearing the freshman tie and knowing the M.I.T. songs, could be punished by menial, but fairly severe forms of punishment. A possible solution of the problem lies in the enforcement of freshman rules. These rules already exist, but are virtually ignored. Breaking of the rules, such as wearing the freshman tie and knowing the M.I.T. songs, could be punished by menial, but fairly severe forms of punishment.

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