EDITORIALS

Without Honor

The Institute has a full share of so-called honorary groups ranging from the national engineering Tau Beta Pi to Quadrangle Club and the erstwhile Omicron. The honorary nature of Beaver Key and Quadrangle Club has long been questioned. Similar questioning is equally applicable to the various individual cause honoraries and even to Tau Beta Pi.

Ostensibly scholastic, honorary societies, must have as qualifications for membership not only academic record but also a somewhat undefinable added criterion—a je ne sais quoi which may go under the guise of character or any other non-quantifiable quality. It is this added qualification which has proved the basis for much of the professional honoraries' notoriety.

In many cases, elections have been read not on the basis of merit but on the basis of the personal likes and dislikes of the incumbent members. It is not what you have done but who you know that determines whether you will be accepted or not.

In the case of Beaver Key and Q-Club unfair selection procedures are relatively harmless, but in the professional groups, with the academic prestige they hold for prospective employers, the situation is somewhat more lamentable.

There is no place in the Institute for such iniquities. If the existence of these groups enables any student to profit at the expense of another, the system must be changed or the groups eliminated. It should be the policy of student government to refrain from sanctioning the existence of any so-called professional honorary group which has as criterion for membership any other but academic and professional proficiency.

The recent elections of Beaver Key Society, Junior honorary group, were an example of responsible action. Should the Key and Quadrangle Club, the super group, continue to remain coincident of their ostensible role of honoraries, they will go a long way toward strengthening their position on campus.

Progress Report

The past year has marked great strides in domitory government. The House Committees, basic units of student government, have concentrated on their services to the residents and in general have improved conditions.

In some of the way was last term's Burtus House Committee. The success of its student-owned laundry paved the way for student-run concessions throughout the dormitory system and possibly for an eventual wholly student-run cooperative enterprise.

Many of the improved services and facilities have been of an almost trivial nature; but the sum total seems to be a cooperative house.

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of course, is the presidential election itself on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. So far this time, the news has fallen in four key channels: délégations to the August conventions which will formally select the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of the major parties.

Presidential Election

In a series of articles of which this is an introductory one, several faculty members and students in the Political Science Section of the MIT have undertaken the analysis of the processes by which presidents are elected, of the role of men who work for that office, and of the devices such as primaries and conventions through which the choices are made. We will look at the manner in which delegates to the conventions are chosen and in the way in which those conventions operate once they have been formed. We will take as an example of two of the major prospective issues of the campaign—segregation in the public schools and economic policy as it applies to the nation's farmers. We hope to present an article or two on the political situation here in Massachusetts with interviews by students of state political leaders.

And there similar considerations will be dealt with here from the standpoint of helping students to make up their minds on the merits of the issues or the candidates or the parties. That function is certainly an important one but it is hardly suited to the pages of a student newspaper in articles from faculty pen.

Qualifications

The question which will interest us here are of an order such as the following: Why should a decision as obviously important as the choice of a president be made by individuals elected to such an institution as unwieldy as a convention of more than one thousand delegates and an equal number of alternate delegates? Are there perhaps functions served by conventions other than the adapting of a platform and the naming of a nominee? Who are the delegates to conventions? Why do they go? What do they really do when they are there? Who pays for it? Why?

As for the front runners for the nominations themselves are concerned, we are interested primarily in the qualifications which make a man eligible even to be considered for such a position. What puts the front runner in front, and what makes a dark horse dark? What seem to be the qualities the party leaders look for in a standard-bearer? Why do they do that? Qualifications which make a man eligible even to be considered for a position are not a matter of which he must have a thousand delegates and an equal number of alternate delegates.

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

I have asked the makers of Philip Morris, an ardent and aggressive group of men; yet at the same time we have the group with a personal, philosophical, and other, which does not do, however, make their essential strength the propaganda of the smoker's motivation and his personal interest, their personal interest, their personal interest, their personal interest, their personal interest.

"Yes," she said simply. They embraced then and squeezed each other and exchanged brave smiles, and if their eyes were to believe from Mary Ellen's sidelong glances and maidely blushes, was not entirely unrequited, and by and by he mustered up enough courage to ask her the all-important question: "Will you wear my 4-d pin?"

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