Applicants And Acceptances Drop For Class Of 1961;
Ten Dollar Fee Bailed For 14% Drop In Applications

Almost eight percent fewer applicants are being sought for next year's freshman class than were accepted last year, according to figures cited by B. Alden Thresher, '70, President of Admissions. These figures, excerpted as May first, follow a drop of about fourteen percent in the total number of applicants.

Thresher said that the Admissions Office's instructions are to try to keep the size of the incoming freshman class constant. Therefore, it was necessary to reduce the total number of applicants primarily to the ten dollar application fee which was instituted this year. Harvard, which now uses an entrance test, has also levied a ten dollar fee for the first time, similarly reported a decrease in the number of applicants.

As of May first, 1418 freshmen were accepted, against 1537 last year. Applicants totaled 2454, versus 2845 a year ago.

Less Undergrad Specialization Is Keynote of Growing MIT Trend

By Robert Sol

"Along with more general education in the engineering curriculum, we should have less and less specialization in undergraduate engineering subjects, while at the same time preserving the motivations which come from having specific courses of study, such as chemical engineering or civil engineering. What engineering schools are trying to do is to push into the graduate years some of the more specialized work, such as in the undergraduate subject a less empirical but more basic content of 'non-intellectual schools are trying to do is to concentrate his work in the classical sense on science and engineering, rather than the engineering education at that time. Since then, numerous experiments in education have been tried on the departmental level.

E.E. Change

One of the most recent examples of an experiment for improvement is the announcement of Course V.B. At present, this course is intended for upperclassmen who show promise during their early years at MIT and definitely wish to obtain a degree in Electrical Engineering. More courses in basic science and mathematics will be included in the curriculum, and the student will receive a degree in E.E. while obtaining more of the fundamentals. Along with announcing the inception of Course V.B. the Department of Electrical Engineering changed its regular undergraduate curriculum by adding several basic science courses.

Flexible Schehdules

Throughout the Institute, the departments are continually improving their respective courses of study and allowing the student more flexibility in his individual courses of choice. Course XII recently altered its reg- ular curriculum and now specifies no required subjects to be taken during the Ju- niors and senior years. The student has the responsibility of working out his own program of subjects each term, but will always have the guidance of his advisor in doing so.

In this program for engineering-physicists, a certain number of subjects are specified in the fields of hu- manities; mathematics, physics, chem- istry, and environmental engineering; and in Course XII. The great flexibility offered by this program allows each student to organize his work into one or more fields of specialization.

Last year a new subject called "Civil Engineering Projects" was put into the second year curriculum of the Civil Engineering students. This sub- ject involved the planning of three major projects, one of which dealt with the multi-purpose hydraulic de- velopment of the Artibonite River in Haiti. This would be a required assignment even for an experienced Civil Engineer, but undergraduate engineers came up with good solutions considering the amount of formal engineering civil engineer- ing tasks which they had taken up to this time.

The projection of the course is ded- icated to the proposition that engi- neers must have multiple skills. (Continued on page 13)

Land Probes MIT, Charts New Concepts In Education

Dr. Edwin H. Land, President of the Polaroid Corporation and an Institute Professor, completed today, a two-day visit here which included an intensive round of meetings with members of the Institute community. He was in Cambridge to review and provide material for the ninth Arthur D. Little Memorial Lecture which Dr. Land will deliver on May 22.

The past ten years, he said, have been "a time of revolution and rethinking in education in a very broad sense." A revolution, he added, "is coming about now and will be seen by 1970." Dr. Land stated that he would like to make "a number of suggestions in my address on the future of education." A number of student groups have already expressed interest in the lecture. One member of the student group that he is urging "everyone I meet" to attend the lecture. The Lecture will be given in Kresge Auditorium at 8:00. Students, faculty, and staff are invited.

The Arthur D. Little Lectures were established in 1944 with funds donated by Arthur D. Little, Inc. How- ever, the conditions were altered until November 1, 1944, the inaugural lec- ture, which was given by the late Edward A. Appleton, at that time "Be- sides Officer of the Crown" in Great Britain.

The following day, Dr. Robert Oppenheimer spoke on "Physics in Contemporary World." Dr. Opp- enheimer recently completed the William James lectures at Harvard. The purpose of the Lectures, as stated in 1944, is "to promote inter- est and stimulate discussion of the implications inherent in the develop- ment of science through lectures by distinguished contributors to the ad- vancement of science."

This year, the Arthur D. Little gradu- ated with the Class of '85, Arthur D. Little Memorial Lecture, will be delivered by Dr. Edwin H. Land, President of the Polaroid Corporation. The Lecture will be given in Kresge Auditorium at 8:00. Students, faculty, and staff are invited.

Land will be one of the leaders of the Institute and served as Editor of Volume III.

MIT Symphony In Free Kresge Concert

The MIT Symphony Orchestra, John Correy, conducting, will give a free concert at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, in Kresge Auditorium. Features will be the first Massachusetts performance of the Khayman's "Kurf"s for Orchestra, a recent work (1962) by composer- pianist Gregory Turke. Mr. Turke is a music lec- turer at MIT, and the piece will be performed by an orchestra of 30 students, including a string quartet and a number of the faculty at the orchestra's debut.

Also on the program will be the Overture to Orfeo by Monteverdi, Serenade No. 7, K210, by Mozart, Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev (to be narrated by William Grenze, Pro- fessor of English) and the Overture to Le Reve by Liszt.

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