Traditions’ Face Police, Stiff Raps;  
The Call To ‘Riot’ Leads To Jail

The Tech, May 21, 1957

Page Five

The MIT student who utters the word “riot” above a whisper now-a-days is doomed. This word became strictly taboo on March 3 this year. On that Saturday night 34 Tech men and one Yale student were arrested for various violations including “inciting a riot.” The Tech, while offering one of its reporters to the MDC, gave a play-by-play description of the demonstration under the bylines of Linda Greiner ’60.

A day description went, “Waving homemade posters declaring “we protest” and “lower rent” the students milled about in front of Dean Fassett’s house shooting off occasional fireworks and throwing snowballs. The appearance of a paddy wagon on the scene added to the general confusion. Each new paddy wagon was greeted with loud cheers and shouts of “Let’s all go to jail!” And so, many of them did.

The Dean’s statement also included a remark which every Tech man must soberly think about, “Henceforth, the presence of a student at a riotous or unauthorized demonstration will be considered prima facie evidence of his participation and probable grounds for expulsion.”

Amidst all the clamor and claims, many students forgot the original grounds for demonstrating—the Commissary food at Baker House and the raise in dorm and Commons fees. Shouter’s, an outside caterer, finally arrived at Baker in April after two memorable mass boycotts. The objection to the raise in room and meal fees seems to have died for lack of a sponsor.

After the first wave of excitement, came the trial in the Third District Court. While a judge listened to the evidence, a student Judicial Committee did likewise, and the Deans hoped that the task of punishment would be kept within the Institute, but the students and the Deans got a shock. On March 15, when the court handed down its ruling of guilty to twenty-one of the rioters, “Judge Silva made his decision at 10:30 a.m. after hearing the pleas for the defense and for the prosecution. He said he was convinced that a riot, in the legal sense, was in progress.”

The Institute lawyers did not stop here. They took the students’ case to the Superior Court and, just one week ago, The Tech reported that the twenty-three students had their convictions set aside. The pre-spring riots caused much confusion around the Institute for many weeks. They also left a slight scar on the student body in the eyes of many who read the articles written about the riots by outside newspapers.

For Shipping

For Storage and Many Other Uses

TECHNOLOGY STORE

Wooden Packing Cases

12” x 17” x 21” $5.95
15” x 22” x 27” $7.95

All boxes have hinges, rope handles and hasps.

Traditions Face Decrees: Gone Are Hazing, Field Day Sports

This year, Institute Committees dealt with a red-hering which it had inherited from last year’s brouhaha—the hazing issue. On May 3, after an entire year of debating and discussing, Inscomm ruled that “hazing shall be no more.”

The first indication that hazing would again be a problem came from the sophomores of East Campus. On October 16 the Tech read, “Over one hundred East Campus freshman residents were painted, depantsed, or both in a band of seventeen sophomores entered their rooms early Sunday morning.”

The hazing, however, was hardly one-sided. That same issue also covered another story, “Dennis Lytle, vice-president of the Class of ’59 participated in a sort of student exchange plan with FBT last Friday, with Lytle going to RPI and the Rensselaer sophomore president coming to MIT. The whole thing was the idea of a group of freshmen at each school.”

After several Inscomm investigations the matter was dropped. It was then that the constructive ideas about freshman orientation came in. Inscomm formed a special committee headed by Harry Flagg ’57. This committee moved under two Inscomm and its reports were endorsed by both Inscomm Committees.

Flagg’s report was made on April 30, where he commented, “The best thing to fill the vacuum left by the hazing butt is a well-worked-out orientation program designed to make the incoming student feel at home.”

The plan is now being worked out by a special Inscomm committee.

The biggest revolution in Freshman-Sophomore rivalry came on April 30, where the lead story of The Tech read, “Student Leaders and, in fact, the whole student body appeared to be taken by surprise by the Athletic Association’s actions ending four Field Day sports.”

The Athletic Association supported their move by citing two difficulties with Field Day Sports: first, they said, the hasty Field Day training makes some athletes develop unbreakable habits; and second, participation in Field Day Sports has been spotty.

The question is far from being a dead issue. In the last Institute Committee meeting of this year a motion was adopted to have the A.A. review their ruling. Where this will lead us no one can know until next year.

Spot Cash For Discarded Books

(yes, even books discontinued at your college)

We pay top prices for books in current demand. Bring them in NOW before time depreciates their value.

BARNES & NOBLE • BOOKS

28 Boylston St. at Harvard Square