

# The Tech



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## Stratton Says Dormcon Open House Decision Not Socially Acceptable

During the question-and-answer period following Dr. Stratton's speech, a question was raised on the policy concerning parietal rules. This was Dr. Stratton's answer:

"The Corporation Committee was not fully aware of the situation when they commenced investigation . . . MIT and its environs are a bleak place. There is a tremendous need to build here a campus—a pleasant community . . . The practice of having a girl in a man's room, with the door locked, until the a.m., simply would not be tolerated by most homes, hotels, and clubs. The present setup of open house hours is not the accepted standard of society."

"We must try to make any rules which we adopt stick fast. The worst aspect of the Open House problem are the abuses, when the rules are not obeyed."

Dr. Stratton promised that a decision on the Dormcon Open House Report would be forthcoming soon. Dean Rule is meeting with Dormcon this coming Tuesday.



Chancellor Stratton speaks from the dining room steps in Baker House.

## Baker Changes Constitution; E.C. Planing Rumpus Room

Several constitutional amendments and by-law revisions were proposed at the Wednesday meeting of the Baker House Committee. These changes were so important that their discussion occupied almost the entire one-hour meeting.

The first proposed amendment is for the creation of an Elections Committee directly under BakerComm and with clearly designated powers. Al Travers, present Elections Chairman, will become head of the newly authorized committee but will not have a vote.

Similarly the Director of Internal Facilities has been placed under the Housecomm with definite limitations on his duties. The present Director, Judson James, will continue in his new capacity, but also will not have voting privileges.

In another proposed constitutional change Bakercomm's chairman could have his interpretation of the constitution overruled by a majority of the committee. This change from the two-thirds requirement limits the chairman's powers in many fields.

## New Nuclear Engineering Dept. To Be Headed By Manson Benedict

Dr. Julius Stratton, Chancellor and Acting President of MIT, has just announced the creation of a Department of Nuclear Engineering; the new department offers courses in nuclear reaction theory, instrumentation, production of useful nuclear reactions, reactor design and construction, radiation shielding, nuclear metallurgy, nuclear chemical technology, and heat transmission. Dr. Manson Benedict, professor of nuclear engineering has been appointed head of the department.

The \$2,640,000 nuclear reactor at MIT, which will be completed this spring, will serve as a laboratory for the new department, enabling students to make first-hand studies of atomic energy.

The department, first in any New England college and one of the first in the United States, is the outgrowth of several years of experience in nuclear engineering at MIT. It will be a division of the School of Engineering, of which Dr. C. Richard Soderberg is dean. The teaching program will work in harmony with a research program, which will include studies of atomic energy for medical and industrial as well as scientific purposes.

The first course in nuclear engineering was offered in 1952 and since then others have been developed under the Chemical Engineering Department, headed by Dr. Walter G. Whitman.

A fourth amendment would require one term of residence in Baker House for membership on Housecomm and would bar members of outside living groups from Housecomm membership.

A number of by-laws were also proposed and discussed. One of these would rescind the votes of the Secretary and Treasurer in Bakercomm balloting; another would give a vote to the Inscomm representative attending Baker's meetings. These proposals are an attempt to widen democratic procedures, as the Inscomm representative is elected by a popular vote while the Secretary and Treasurer are only elected within the committee.

Another proposal would require five attendances per year of Bakercomm representatives. A fourth by-law change would allow a two-thirds vote to close any committee meeting and bar spectators. Other proposed changes allow the recall of a member by a 30% electorate vote and require a Housecomm vote to approve disbursements over \$15.00.

## More Emphasis On Science Vitally Needed To Educate Man For A Confused Civilization

The new order of civilization is founded in science, and those who hope to be influential in society must have a thorough understanding of its principles, according to Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Acting President of MIT. In an informal speech before a Baker House Buttery last Tuesday night, Dr. Stratton stated this philosophy, and made the following points:

- 1) MIT has a vital responsibility in preparing people with strong scientific backgrounds.
- 2) Engineering courses must be backed up with a fuller, indispensable foundation of basic science.
- 3) A four year undergraduate education can no longer fully prepare people for professional careers.

4) The modern liberal education must drastically increase its scientific content.

The Baker House dining hall was filled with listeners as Dr. Stratton spoke. He began by saying that in his two months of service as president, he was struck by the necessity of conveying to the students a real sense of belonging and participation. He then went on to elaborate the basic principles and philosophies of the Institute.

"This is the most extraordinary period of human history," Dr. Stratton said, "and science is responsible for the change. MIT must now prepare its students for what lies ahead in the future. You, the students, will play a great role in shaping this future. You must remember that simply eliminating the 'Russian threat' will not solve our problems."

Speaking of the changes in science and technology, Dr. Stratton said that they have caused a strong reconsideration of the MIT departmental system to take place. The different engineering courses overflow into other departments, and share each other's techniques and problems. To alleviate this problem, and to give MIT students a sounder preparation for future work, "there is an increasing feeling among a large part of the faculty that engineering must have a stronger basis in chemistry, physics, and mathematics. But this must not go too far, or else MIT will become a 'school of applied science' like Cal Tech or Harvard Engineering. I do not believe that this is MIT's role."

"Science and engineering are two different viewpoints and methods," he continued. "Science seeks to advance the frontiers of knowledge, while engineering must be concerned with applications, economics, and personnel management. We must increase the science background of engineering, but retain these important professional disciplines."

Dr. Stratton also said that a four year undergraduate education cannot completely prepare a professional man. He described the function of MIT as providing a "liberal education

specializing in science and its applications. This should prepare students for research, graduate work in science or engineering, medicine, management, et cetera."

Ritchie Coryell '58, who was in the audience, then raised the question of the old classical education. Stratton answered, "One cannot live an influential life now and be unaware of scientific facts. One cannot understand science by a mere survey course. Of course, the Humanities are essential to a liberal education; a liberal education depends on attitude rather than subject matter. But old-style liberal arts colleges will have to change very much. They must add more basic scientific subjects for all students. Even so, they will never become like MIT."

## Boathouse Is Object Of Planning Efforts; May Be Relocated

The present MIT crew boathouse has recently been described by Assistant Treasurer Philip A. Stoddard as "in bad shape". A new reinforced concrete floor is now being laid, which should extend the life of the structure at least three and possibly five years, Mr. Stoddard said. Possibilities of a new boathouse are now being explored by Mr. Stoddard, Richard L. Balch, Director of Athletics, and Carl M. Peterson, Director of the Physical Plant, with the aid of Anderson, Beckwith and Hable, architects.

Since the MDC plans to widen Memorial Drive in the near future, and perhaps displace the present boathouse in doing so, the Institute has consulted the MDC about "alternate sites" for the structure, said Mr. Stoddard.

## Petitions For UAP, UAVP Candidates In Today, Voting Feb. 25

Petitions of candidates for Undergraduate Association President and Vice President and all class offices must be turned in today by 4:00 p.m.

As we go to press, the following people have announced their candidacy for office.

For UAP, Patrick McGovern '59, Jerry Stephenson '59, and Alberto Velaochaga '59.

For UAVP, George Haymaker '59, Adul Pinsuvana '59, and Carl Swanson '60.

Running for offices of the Class of '59 are Buddy Long for president and Paul Brown, representative to the Commuter Council. For the Class of '60, T. H. Courtney and R. Lienhard are running for president. Tom Miller, Ken Singer and Dorsey Dunn are running for President of the Class of '61, and Henry Gabelnick is running for Commuter Council representative.

For permanent officers of the Class of '58, H. G. Johnson is running for Secretary Treasurer, and Bob Jordan for President.

## Annual Debate Tournament To Feature 'MIT Style' Debating

The thirteenth annual MIT Invitational Debate Tournament will be held in Kresge Auditorium today and tomorrow, February 14 and 15, 1958.

The tournament, the oldest of its kind held in New England, will be attended by representatives from thirty colleges and universities, ranging from local Boston schools to as far away as Oklahoma. Included are Fordham, winner of last year's tournament; Harvard, Dartmouth, Holy Cross, Brooklyn, Boston University, and Navy.

The teams will meet in five preliminary rounds and then the schools with the best records in this competition will meet in the final round to determine the champion. All debates will be on the national collegiate debate topic—Resolved: "That the re-

quirement of membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment should be illegal." The final round will be held in Kresge Auditorium, Saturday at 2:30, and is open to the public.

A unique feature of the tournament will be the "MIT style of debate" employed, in which the first rebuttal speakers are given the option of cross-examining their opponents if they so choose. MIT this year has entered tournaments at Vermont, where they amassed a score of 7-3. They have also debated at Tufts (10-0), NYU (5-5) and last weekend at the Harvard Invitational Tournament where they just missed taking the honors with a 5-1 record. The University of Pennsylvania (6-0) won the contest.

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