letters

TO THE EDITOR:

There has been a great deal of talk concerning the con-
summation of the freshman study. Some of this talk concerns the immediate usefulness of the report. These people "say" we will find something don't like quix-
tically but can't change the question.

We must realize that a sociological study works on a much more subtle level than that above statement indicates. Please read the Institute, and rightly so, feel that it is in it well worth one fifth of a student's time to study hu-
manities. If we must be so pragmatic, we can say that this is for the purpose of broadening the foundation on which the student bases his engineering or scientific judgment.

In the same manner, why shouldn't the Administration have the benefit of a closer association with the native, naive, "pupil" or what have you, that to come up that unique entity among American college students, the MIT man. With this "pupil" problem of policy analysts will be bound to make at least as beneficial decision concerning stu-
dents as he otherwise would make.

The studies should, in my opinion, be continued at least until the end of the year. By then we will be better able to judge the value of the findings concerning the change in attitude of an Institute class.

Dana Brand '58

Our objections to the study have hardly been primiti-

true and why some of the students react to the MIT en-
vironment in one way and verse in another.

2) I did not say that a four year study would have "use-
ful management" consequences. I was talking about a four year study and I have a horror of manipu-
larization. A four year study has been discussed in some me-
meetings, but not on the basis of something like this.

3) What I did say was that some important factors affect-
ing the experience of MIT freshmen — for instance the educational part of the program — were being em-
ployed by the MIT student, others — including aspects of the MIT environment itself were within their power to change if they should decide to do so.

4) The study of an electrical equipment company which I cited at the panel discussion was not done by me but by Douglas MacGregor and Conrad Arenson as I stated it could legitimately be done by any class as such as these and I wondered whether MIT students did anything of this sort.

5) I did not say that I was looking for "longhorns, bo-
hemians, politicians and playboys." I said that students on other campuses divided each other sometimes in such a way that I considered whether MIT students did anything of this sort.

I believe this would like to say that it is a complete mis-
understanding to interpret the freshman study as an attempt to find out what students want and then to give it to them. No one could agree with the editor more whole-
heartedly that such a simple minded idea would be deplor-
able. It is not for us to decide or even to suggest what the policies of MIT should be. We are simply trying to provide some reliable and comprehensive information so that how students experience their freshman year. We hope the information will serve to guide us. See the risk of degrading policy by implementing them.

Yours truly,
Laura Summar

Weilnelly College

Aside from a close error of fact mentioned under the fourth point, it is our opinion that the conflict resolves itself into a matter of emphasis. The question is: Did The Tech report several statements made by Dr. Summar and act more positively than they might have wished? Newt Ed.