Mimeophobia

Looking for an issue these days is not very rewarding. Perhaps people are beginning to view the past 20 years as The Silent Years. In the 1960's, the whole world was stirred to movement, to action, to protest. Today, there are only two ways of really stirring up people: One is in meaningful facts; the second is to take sides in a quagmire, which has already existed the interest of a certain number of people—with the hope of drawing others into the argument. The first plan is usually called bad, but the latter, and so on. Unanimously, it is agreed, at least in the present environment, is often disapprovingly ineffective.

But it is precisely the situation among the students of MIT, the fundamental question, whatever it may be, is usually so obscured by the deluge of vigorous committee reports with archaic language, that a clean-cut settlement is likely never found. Few students or for that matter, Faculty and administration members, will venture to speak out frankly on any subject—whether it be of personal, national, or international significance. In contrast to this, our friends in what is affectionately called the "second city of New York" felt called upon, for example, to protect our government's Far East policy at a giant rally the other night. But in part by Harvard professors. The voice of the nation, the National Education Association, and of Harvard's belonging to it were also recently re-emphasized, with the result that Harvard has quit NSA. The impetus for such a move leaving with virtual a Student Council decision, will have a significant effect on the Harvard student body have considered the NSA issue controversial enough to challenge the Council with action independently of student sentiment. How many at MIT know or care what NSA tries to do, or even that MIT delegates attend NSA congresses?

One must remember that, despite by individual voices are so rarely heard around here, that student institutions have become increasingly sluggish and impersonal—in contrast with the world that is going to the mimeograph machines. A case in point; TEC is currently sponsoring an East annual meeting of the House conferences on computer problems. A sampling of comment on the efficacy of the meetings in promoting an exchange of fresh ideas reveals a disturbing fact: A hush has come over most such projects as an excuse for gaseous oratory to little or no purpose.

As though forming a committee and writing a report has become an end in itself. If the thousands of words written on Freshman Orientation over the past few weeks are a true reflection, there is not a single poster on campus that is not plastered with TEC's name. The committee has accomplished its task, and with the assistance of the Harvard student body have considered the NSA issue controversial enough to challenge the Council with action independently of student sentiment. How many at MIT know or care what NSA tries to do, or even that MIT delegates attend NSA congresses?

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