The Tech

VOL. LXXVIII December 5, 1958 No. 47

Editorial

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Julius A. Stratton
for his election to President of MIT by the corporation;
likewise thanks are due ex-President James K. Killian,
Jr. for a most excellent performance. MIT is now most
fortunate to have the best administrative student available
for its President and the most efficient fund-raiser as the
Chairman of the Board of the Corporation.

Some might feel that the election of Dr. Stratton was
merely a formality, while others, such as the Boston press,
have indicated that the push came from Dr. Killian's duties
and connections in Washington. We feel that the true
motivation for the change was definitely from within MIT
and that it was a very necessary move. With Dr. Stratton
at the helm in the capacity of Acting President there has
been no evidence of stagnation. There has been no
decline in the showing of long range planning and the
projection and start of building and development programs.
One example of this is the lethargic coordination into
which the dormitory building program has fallen following
a lively discussion of the subject after the pub-
lication of the Ryer Report some time ago. In order to
return the Institute to the usual "momentum" of new de-
velopment at MIT there has to be as much homework as
is a calculus assignment.

At risk, perhaps, of putting ourselves too much on the
backs, it is interesting to draw parallels between a repres-
sentative MIT group-say the orchestra-and a correspond-
ing organization from a liberal arts college. To present for
public performance a program comparable in difficulty to
one of the dormitory concert series by the University of
Massachusetts orchestra requires the same amount of
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in the orchestra major composers such as Boccherini or
Klaus Liepmann or John Corley gets another grey hair.

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half notes

We think that two very encouraging and complementary
points were proven two weekends ago. The new capacity
covet at Kongo for the MIT Symphony concert bore strik-
ing testimony to (1) the talents and achievements of our
performing musical groups and (2) the widespread inter-
est and appreciation of the MIT community.

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But as we said before, both Klaus and John are under-
standingly aware of academic priority. What is apt to bother
both men, however, is a non-resectable attitude of con-
placent acceptance of mediocrity on the part of many stu-
dents who feel "Why bother? We're not expected to be
like BSO, why try to sound like them?" After all, this is a
technical school, not a music school.

This weekend, next, these MIT musical groups will pro-
vide concert at Krigea. Tonight at 8:30, Klaus Liepmann
will direct the Glee Club in a joint concert with Wheel-
ock. Also on the program will be the brass choir under
John Corley. And to round out a busy weekend, Klaus will
conduct the Choral Society on Sunday afternoon.

CONCORD UNIVERSE.

The Tech's Kennedy Press

letters

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:

REGARDING PRESIDENT KILLIAN'S RESIGNATION,
I had not dreamed he would take so seriously my little piece in DECEMBER ATLANTIC ABOUT TECH STUDENTS' ATTITUDE.

CHARLES W. MORTON

reviews

e. e. cummings

It is always difficult for an author to interpret his own works:
very few composers nowadays can play their own
concerts and it is well known that the worst performances
of the "Rhapsody in Blue" features George Gershwin him-
self. The same idea is true for poets and e. e. cummings
reinvented the tradition Wednesday night. His reading
brought up a sad fact about MIT: from the choice of poems
taken during the performance it was quite obvious that Mr.
Cummings deemed the average MIT student as so orga-
nized and not more than that, incapable of appreciating
the true work of art; this general impression of our intellec-
tual poverty is offensive and disturbing. Mr. Cummings seemed
to choose jokes rather than poetry and left the audience
with an impression of emptiness and almost nothing for
philosophical consideration. For those who knew Mr.
Cummings' poetry and his conflicting but deep play, "him, it
was rather a shock to hear trivialities and bad prose in a mon-
otonous commercial voice; but that is what the audience un-
fortunately got out of the Wednesday performance. It is true,
however, that Mr. Cummings' impression was partly
correct in the choice of the poems read: the audience
laughed, giggled, chuckled and slapped at the funny pun-
oin-foam-of-poems and remained in a despairing and pant-
silence whenever Mr. Cummings took a deep breath and
read some serious piece. Nevertheless it was disappointing
to sit and listen to the less valuable works of e. e. cummings
misshapen by the commercial inster Mr. Cummings. Credit
must be given to the L.S.C. for this attempt and if the
evening wasn't entirely successful it is certainly not to be
blamed.

John Pierre Frankelevitch '51

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