

# The Tech



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## A Backward Look

Somewhat the Spring Term always seems to go faster than the Fall Term, and the one just past has been no exception. Before we get immersed in finals, before we leave for the summer and get too far away from all that MIT has been this term past, let's permit ourselves one backward look. We'd like an opportunity to clear up a lot of back issues: admit some mistakes and mention, at least, a few successes.

The state of affairs with Tech Show was dragged out in these pages this year as last. Some justly questioned facts in *The Tech's* original stand marred the debates, but we are far from convinced that because of this, the matter should be dropped. We advocated that there be "a discussion of the future of Tech Show by members of the faculty, administration, and student body", with "special attention given to the areas of undergraduate participation, financial position, and show quality." We hope that such discussions are going on, or at least that the Show is on the minds of people other than those directly concerned. Thought might well be given to the idea of having a professional director and adviser for Tech Show.

The end of February also saw the first of four "Safety Shafts" make its appearance in the Hayden Libraries. Fine symbols, these raucously clashing shafts, of MIT independence and ingenuity. We hope they remain in place for a long time to come, and that any attempt to paint them brown, grey, or some other innocuous color, is quickly squelched by high Administrative authority.

With the close of the UAP campaign came a restatement of candidate Jaffe's promises, and a hope that they would not be forgotten. They concerned the school scholastic average, apathy toward sports and activities, compulsory commons, and SCEP. Along these lines, SCEP was discussed at the time of election of sub-committee chairmen, and definite plans were made as to the future of that group. (We cannot emphasize our position strongly enough, that if SCEP is not capable of handling a thing like the honor system proposal, it does not justify its existence.) Commons meals are being handled to the satisfaction of all concerned, in keeping with that promise. Also, the Public Relations Committee will print next year a schedule of coming Incomm meetings. This has long been needed, and has been requested on this page before. In the comparatively short time that the new Incomm has held office under Mr. Jaffe, a relatively good record has been made, and we can only commend him and the committee, and hope that this performance carries on through the Fall term.

Next the honor system came along. With the proposal, an *ad hoc* sub-committee of Incomm came into being, and went to work gathering information on the subject. Last Tuesday we requested a progress report from the committee, and Robert Nagro, '61, the new chairman, was good enough to write us and let us know what has been done, and what has been determined. His report appears on this page.

The Sussman Report was made available in the latter part of the term. Reading through it, we could find many things that we already knew, and many things that shocked us. We couldn't help getting the feeling that the Sussman Report is a very significant study, one that should get a great deal of attention as MIT goes on trying to shape, and strengthen, a community here. Perhaps one of the best ways to prepare the entering freshmen for their coming ordeal — and we say that in all seriousness after reading the Report — would be for MIT to include in the packets of information sent out to them over the summer a copy of the study, or excerpts from it. By thus starting the freshman thinking about the course he has to run before his is on it and swept up in the race, there would be a better chance that he would avoid the pitfalls.

The community's reaction to our proposal to retain the services of Harvey Burstein as an informal legal adviser to the Institute was disappointing. If we can take the number of letters received at our office as indicative, one person concurs with us. We know that a great many more people than this have benefited immeasurably from Mr. Burstein's good offices. We know that they and others will miss him, when, as seems to us inevitable, he leaves MIT. When this happens, however, it will not be the MIT administration who is to blame, but the whole MIT community, warned in advance, but uninterested.

So much for the loose ends. In closing, let us say that the response in the form of letters this term has been gratifying, and has made *The Tech* a better newspaper, by making the paper less a platform for the opinions of one group, and more a forum for discussion and debate. We are already looking forward to the Fall Term, and further discussion with you of the issues large and small than confront MIT.

## Letters:

Sir:

Thank you for your suggestion in Tuesday's *The Tech* about card-checking at the door of the Reserve Book Room. We have put a man on the job evenings and weekends who will continue until exam period is over. In the future we will watch the Reserve Book Room as we have the Science Library in the past, in order to start card-checking as soon as the beautiful invasion becomes too much of a good thing.

Sincerely,  
WILLIAM N. LOCKE  
Director of Libraries

Our thanks to the Director of Libraries for his prompt action to rescue the situation before Reading Period and Exam Week. And our (somewhat hypocritical) apologies to the girls, of BU and elsewhere. See you after finals — maybe?

— Ed.

## Progress Report

TO THE EDITOR, *The Tech*

Sir:

I am happy to have the opportunity to give an unofficial report concerning the activities of the Honor System Subcommittee, for although we will not have a formal report to give to Incomm until the fall, the following may provide a basis for consideration of this topic over the summer.

As far as our activities are concerned, they have mostly been of the information-gathering type. The committee has talked with many students and faculty members in an effort to define the problem areas involved.

In brief outline, our findings thus far have amounted to the following:

The main purpose of an Honor System would not be to reduce the amount of cheating that goes on, to reduce the man-hours necessary for proctering exams, or to gain publicity for the Institute. Rather, it is hoped that it might:

1. Instill a set of professional ethics and an intellectual integrity in the graduates.
2. Bring to the attention of the students some of the moral and ethical questions which they face, consciously or unconsciously, every day.
3. Generate something of an *esprit de corps* in the MIT undergraduates.

Given the suggestion of an honor system, several questions arise:

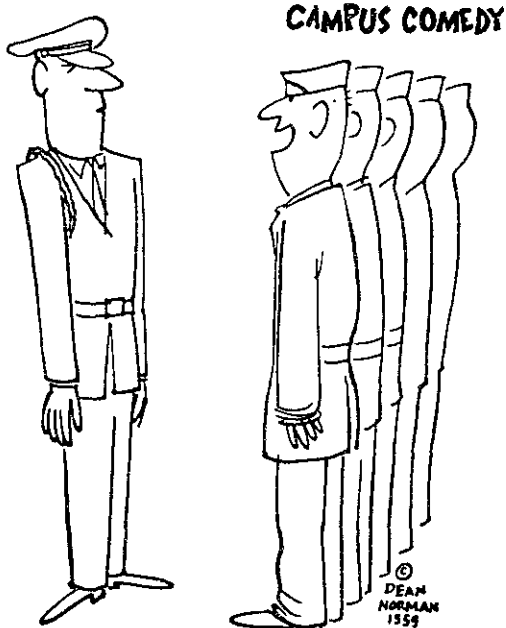
1. Are the above aims sufficient to warrant such a system?
2. Does the MIT community want such a system?
3. Could such a system, if instituted, work here at MIT with the great competition, the emphasis on grades, the number type exams, and the heavy work load?

If we can assume affirmative answers to the above, we must then step from the cloud of theory to the hard ground of practicality and deal with the following further questions:

1. What should such a system cover? Exams? Papers? Labs? Homework? Other things?
2. How should it be established? In the senior professional courses? In freshman sections? In the Institute as a whole?
3. What kind of a system should it be? Who should be able to report whom? How?
4. What should be the penalties involved?
5. Who should control the operation of the system? Could there be appeals? To whom?

The answers to these questions are far from clear-cut, but certain basic points are beginning to emerge. We think that by the Fall we will have enough of the answers to be able to make formal recommendations to Incomm and the Administration. To further this aim, the committee is interested in the opinions of any and all the members of the MIT community, and if anyone has ideas, opinions, or questions, we would like to hear from them. It is only through the interest and co-operation of everyone that an honor system will have any hope of success.

Sincerely,  
ROBERT NAGRO, '61, Chairman  
Honor System Subcommittee



"BEFORE YOU GET DRUNK WITH POWER, JUST REMEMBER WHOSE BIOLOGY NOTES YOU COPY."

## WTBS Program Schedule

Friday	
7:30-8:45 A.M.	Rise and Shine
5:00 P.M.	Caravan
6:00	Jazz
7:00	Fiesta
8:00	Baton Society
9:00-2:00	Nite Owl
Saturday	
5:00 P.M.	Jazz
7:00	Show Music
9:00-2:00 A.M.	Nite Owl
2:00-4:00	Nite Crawler
Sunday	
4:00 P.M.	Sunday Serenade
7:00	Folk Music
8:00	Jazz
9:00-1:00	Classical Music
Monday	
7:30-8:45 A.M.	Rise and Shine
5:00 P.M.	Caravan
6:00	Jazz
7:00	Bob Nagro Show
9:00-1:00	Classical Music
L & M NEWS	
Monday-Friday	
8:00 A.M., 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 P.M.	
Saturday	
5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 P.M., and 1:00 A.M.	

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