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Second Term Quizzes

The question of Monday quizzes for freshmen is virtually decided as The Tech goes to press. It seems clear that, as a result of a meeting held between students last week, the Undergraduate Committee will recommend to Dr. Stratton that the first-day-of-the-week quiz be retained for this term.

We feel that Monday quizzes are not in the best interest of the MIT freshman, or any of the activities in which he participates. The student is faced with a week of seven days of studying, without letup or variation to case the tension. To those who ask, "What, what are you here for?" we would like to point out that MIT professors are interested in developing more than the academic side of its students. When the Monday quiz is put up in favor of studying, this is not being done. We would like to remind those who feel that students need only "brush up" and do a little reviewing prior to quizzes, and that Monday is not an objectionable time for a quiz for that reason, that we are dealing with a real-world situation. What students should do and what they will do are constantly demonstrated to be two different things.

We do not propose that there be any more discussion of this term's quizzes. That decision is behind us, as it should have been long ago.

The deadline is fast approaching, however, when plans for next term will be finalized. We urge the Administration, and all others directly concerned, to give full consideration to the feeling held by The Tech and many upperclassmen: that regular Monday quizzes are not in the best interests of the MIT freshman.

Let next term's quizzes be on Wednesday or Friday. Then, in June, ask the freshmen what they think of a sort of referendum attached to the last quiz. The school will then have good information as to how students who have lived with both systems feel on the matter, and a decision for next year's quizzes can be reached taking this into account.

KIBITZER

South

West

A 5 7 3 2

Q 8 6 3

J 4 10 10 10

K 6 4 4 2

A Q 5 7 3 2

Q 8 6 3

J 4 10 10 10

K 6 4 4 2

A

Q

J

K

He later made both the A and the J of diamonds, but this tallied only 5 tricks, an insufficient number to set the contract.

Post-mortemizing the hand my partner (Harry S. Elliott, sitting East) suggested the play whereby I could have defeated the contract that I had doubled in game. When declarer led the A of spades at the fourth trick, there was already sufficient information from which West might have figured out the winning play. South's bidding and play marked him with the K of diamonds (otherwise he would not have enough high cards to open), the Q of clubs (otherwiise the play at the second trick would not have gone as it did), and a spade at least 5 and probably 6 cards long. It should therefore be apparent to West that the defense can win no more than 3 tricks in the minors and hearts and must therefore somehow get in 3 trump winners to defeat the contract. If East holds 3 spades headed either J9 or J10, West can defeat the hand by playing a spade, declarer playing the A. Since this is his only chance, he should take it. Once the trump suit is thereby unblocked, declarer is doomed. East is assured of getting the lead on the next trump trick, whereupon he leads hearts until South's reply and West gets in a deadly overruff for the setting trick.

- Elwyn R. Berlekamp, '62

LETTERS:

Dear Sir:

The problem of tables in Walker, cluttered with trays during the noon hour, has continued to grow over the past several years, until now it is often impossible to find a clear space to sit and eat your lunch. In spite of valiant efforts by the Walker staff to keep the tables clear, dirty trays before they have room to eat. This problem could be eliminated to a large extent if each patron would help the staff by carrying his own tray to the rolling racks when finished with his meal. The amount of work involved in carrying away your own tray is certainly no more than is involved in removing some one else's, and the entire concept of incurring yourself is much easier to accept.

Why not help the Walker staff keep our dining hall decent?

Peter R. Bankson, '61

Mr. Beakson's letter seems reasonable. Certainly the atmosphere in Walker would be greatly improved by the removal of the pile of trays that remain late during the noon hour. If the staff is too busy to do this, why not the patrons? We propose that Walker staff encourage cafeteria users to bus their own trays.

- Elwyn R. Berlekamp, '62

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You'll be baled before your thirty!

After six months of this sedate liaison, Oddly was so bored he could spit. He loved Virginia well enough, but he also believed that people in love ought to fight now and then. "It opens the pores," he said. "And besides, it's so much fun making up afterwards."

But Virginia would not be provoked into a quarrel. One night Oddly tried very hard. "Hey," he said to her, "your nose looks like a banana, and your ears look like radar antennas, and your face looks like a pan of worms."

"My goodness, we're hostile tonight!" said Virginia cheerfully and whipped 120 Rorschach cards out of her reticule. "Come," she said, "let us examine your psychic apparatus."

Oddy tried again. "You're fat and dumb and disagreeable," he said, "and you'll be baled before you're thirty."

"Jimm," said Virginia thoughtfully and lit a cigarette. "This sounds like an anxiety neurosis with tonotonia, anagria, and a belt in the funk."

"I hate you," said Oddly. "I hate your looks and your clothes and your tommies and your relatives and your cigarettes you smoke."

"Now, hold on, buster!" cried Virginia, her eyes twinkling, her color mounting, her nostrils flaring. "Just keep a civil word against it gets putrid. If I can defeat the hand by playing a spade, declarer playing the A.

- Elwyn R. Berlekamp, '62

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Unsought editorials appearing in THE TECH constitute the opinions of the individuals concerned, and not those of MIT. The paper welcomes letters from readers; space permitting, all those considered for publication will be printed. If a letter is deemed to be of interest or benefit to the community, brevity increases the chance of publication.