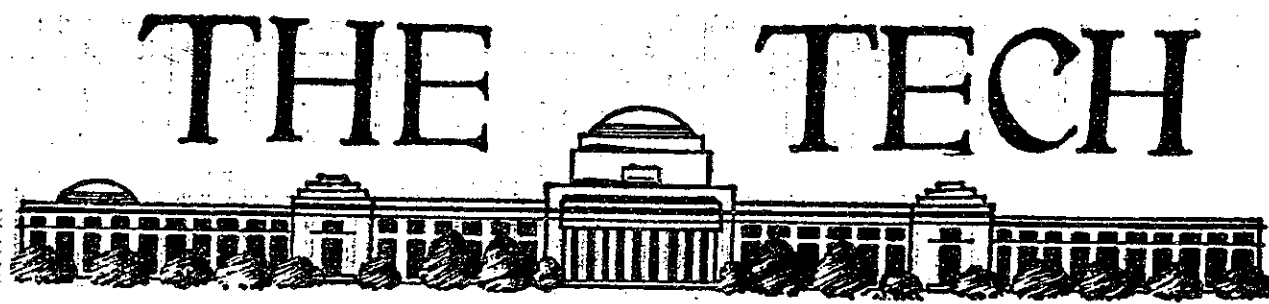


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Established At MIT In 1881

Vol. 81, No. 19

Cambridge, Mass., Wednesday, October 18, 1961

5 Cents

# FIRE RAVAGES WGBH

## Block Of Businesses Which Served Institute In \$2 Million Disaster

The studios of WGBH-TV, and seven other business establishments on Massachusetts Ave. opposite MIT's Building Seven entrance were destroyed by a roaring three alarm fire in the early hours of last Saturday morning. Damage was estimated at close to \$2 million.

The blaze was discovered by Robert Mascone, production supervisor of the station, who rushed into the building to save over \$50,000 worth of educational tapes used for the "21 Inch Classroom." Despite this act of bravery, Hartford M. Gunn Jr., general manager of WGBH-TV, estimated the loss to the station to be in the area of \$1 million, with studios on the second and third floors completely gutted.

### Fire Chief Present

Scores of firefighters from Cambridge, Boston, Belmont, Somerville, and Arlington responded with more than twenty-five pieces of fire apparatus. Cambridge Fire Chief Vincent Galvin appeared on the third alarm to personally take charge of the fire, and MDC police moved in to reroute traffic on Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive. Hundreds of Tech students and Cambridge residents, many of them in night clothes, watched the flames tower above the building as they fed on highly inflammable film equipment.

### Poor Wiring Suspected

Since the studio contained so much electrical equipment, defective wiring was the most likely cause according to the Cambridge fire chief. With the block isolated from neighboring structures, firefighters were able to attack the blaze from four sides without obstruction and keep it from spreading.

WGBH considered moving its FM broadcasting equipment into a vacant WTBS studio, but later decided against the move.

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## Commons To Pritchett As MIT Alumni Invade Walker Tomorrow

MIT Alumni will hear "The Voices of Technology" program, and an address from President Stratton in Walker Memorial, on October 19.

The program will be piped into Kresge Auditorium for the benefit of students and be broadcast on WTBS-AM (640 kc). It will last from 7:45 to 9:45.

As a consequence of the program, commons will be served in Pritchett Lounge.

Voices from the past, present and future will be featured on this nationwide closed circuit telephone program. Dr. Compton and Winston Churchill will be among the voices of the past; President Stratton will speak in Walker and represent the present; computer noises and sounds of outer space will highlight the future "voices."



Fireman battle with the blaze at 5 a.m. Saturday. The fire, which burned all of Saturday morning, destroyed the WGBH studios opposite MIT. — Photo courtesy Boston Globe

## Bloy To Stand Trial For Breach Of Peace 8 Months After Arrest

Rev. Myron B. Bloy, Jr., MIT's Episcopal chaplain is slated to appear in a Mississippi court May 10, 1962. He is charged with violating a 1960 Mississippi law which states that if a person's presence in a given locality might possibly cause a disturbance, he may be arrested.

Rev. Bloy, along with 14 other Episcopal parsons was arrested September 13, in a Jackson, Mississippi, bus terminal for violating the new "Breach of Peace" law. The racially-mixed group was involved in a "prayer pilgrimage".

If the county court delivers an "unfavorable" decision, they will appeal to the State Court, and then to a Federal Court if necessary, the group said.

The Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity sponsored the bus trip.

Rev. Bloy has stated, "We feel that Mississippi has chosen to focus the problem of racial discrimination on itself. We would have preferred that this problem had been focused on the North as well."

He also felt that the trip gave moral encouragement to Southern Negroes.

## Merger?

Dr. Julius Stratton, President of MIT, has been elected to the board of trustees of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. He was chosen by the board at a meeting held Sunday on the Vassar College grounds.

Vassar, along with MIT, observed its centennial in 1961.

## Queen Vote Slated

### '64 To Elect Prom Committee

Elections for the Junior Prom Committee of the class of '64 will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The committee will consist of eight members, including the three Junior class officers who will be elected during spring term.

All members of the class of '64 are eligible for nomination, and only members of the class may vote. Nomination petitions are available at the Undergraduate Office in Walker Memorial and must be returned, fully executed, by 5 P.M., October 27.

In the near future a meeting

will be called for all candidates. Further information is available from the Secretariat at the Undergraduate Office.

The voting for JP Queen will take place next week in the lobby of Building 10. Voting will begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, and continue through Friday.

Pictures of the candidates must be submitted before Oct. 24 at Litchfield Lounge, and all candidates must be dates of male juniors.

Five finalists will be chosen by the voting.

## Freshman Statistics Revealed

By Andy Tannenbaum '65  
As noted earlier this year in *The Tech*, the class of '65 is statistically smarter than all of its predecessors.

The mean CEEB scores on all the required tests rose between five and 25 points for this year's freshman class.

The mean scores of the class of '65 are as follows: SAT verbal 650, SAT math 728, English Comp. 651, Chemistry 697, Physics 680, and Advanced Math 731. The all-freshman average is 681.

Even the quality of the students who are refused admission is rising. The average CEEB score of the rejected applicants is 593 this year.

According to the statistics released by R. K. Weatherall, Assistant Director of Admissions, a student whose CEEB scores averaged between 750 and 800 stood a 0.99 chance of being admitted. On the other hand, a student whose CEEB's were below 550 stood virtually no

chance at all of being admitted.

Nearly every state and territory, as well as 18 foreign countries, are represented in the class of 896 freshmen. The middle Atlantic states have the largest representation; the New England states are next.

Of the 6828 preliminary applicants, 3886 submitted final applications; 1622 were offered admission, and 884 entered in September. Five hundred seventy-seven of 2064 applicants for financial aid received grants averaging \$1050 or loans averaging \$500.

About 37 per cent of the freshman class has indicated an interest in the School of Science; 45 per cent is considering Engineering. Three per cent is interested in Humanities and Social Science.

Six hundred sixty-nine entering students ranked in the top tenth of their high school graduating class. Only seven were in the lower half.

## Russian Dorm Given Right To Show Films Both Weekend Nights

The restriction on weekend Russian Dorm film showings was lifted in a unanimous decision in last Thursday's Activities Council meeting.

On a motion by Jeff Steinfeld '62, the Council decided to lift only the Saturday night restriction by an 8-0 vote. At that point the Council proceeded to complete its discussions on its new constitution.

### LSC Asks Reconsideration

Just as the meeting was about to adjourn, however, LSC pointed out that it would like to have the Russian Dorm question reconsidered as they desired to eliminate all scheduling restrictions, leaving the field completely open to competition. LSC's subsequent motion was unanimously passed by the Council.

### Constitution Completed

The Council passed its proposed constitution to InsComm Thursday after discussion had been completed. These changes will not come into effect until the constitution has been ratified by the Institute Committee.

Major changes include the creation of five rotating Class B seats in addition to the fifteen already voting Class A activities, and the exclusion of student enterprise groups from the Council's jurisdiction. As was done in the previous constitutional meeting, all Class A and Class B activities voted equally.

## Provost Townes Gets David Sarnoff Award: Maser Research Cited

The David Sarnoff Award in Electronics was presented Monday by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Dr. Charles H. Townes, provost of MIT and a leading American physicist. The award cited Dr. Townes for research in physics leading to major advances in communication technology.

### Noted For Maser

Dr. Townes is internationally known for his work on the theory and application of masers, on which he holds the fundamental patent. Masers are a class of revolutionary new amplifying devices that are being used in communications and other fields of science and technology.

Dr. Townes was appointed provost at MIT last March. He received bachelor degrees in physics and modern languages at Furman University, Greenville, in 1935, a master's degree from Duke University in 1937 and his doctorate in physics in 1937 from the California Institute of Technology. He was a member of the technical staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1939 to 1947, then joined the faculty of Columbia University as associate professor of physics.

### On Leave Last Year

Last year, he was on leave of absence from Columbia to serve as vice president and director of research for the Institute for Defense Analyses, Washington, D. C., a non-profit organization operated by MIT and eight other universities.