Freshman morale

Part Two

A grim picture of MIT was painted by the Sussman report in 1960. Freshman morale was at great stress by the extreme emphasis on grades, weakness of social groups, absence of strong faculty-student relations, and lack of rewards other than grades. Many freshmen had low morale.

Today, Dr. Sussman's study is largely outdated. The student body has changed and improved so much that some of her observations no longer apply. Involvment between the students and the faculty is increasing in frequency and degree. Finally, the Institute has been investing time, thought and effort to reduce the emphasis on grades for grades sake.

For all that has been done by MIT to ease the freshman's stress, perhaps the greatest change is in the entering students themselves.

New students are improving. Tests about the freshman class are very much superior, intellectually broader, and mathematically more competent than those of 1958, when Dr. Sussman did her research.

In fact, average scores on the college board exams have been rising at about 10 points per year for the past ten years. Comparisons with other Ivy League schools show that the typical tech man has stronger theoretical interest, about the same aesthetic interest, and more originality.

Moreover, freshmen have broader interests than ever before. One student leader got excited about the athletics, quick to publish, read, and "overlook personal" of the class of '67. The growing number of clubs, publications, music groups, and other activities on campus is another indication of this increase.

Students meet professors more. The curriculum has been improved to emphasize basic concepts and reasoning the dormitories. The curriculum has been invested in helping students except during standard working hours.

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Grades are not enough. Considering MIT's tradition of "education for leadership," it is not surprising that the skills required to make a 5.0 cum are the same as those needed for leadership. To what extent that they are not, MIT is failing in its self-appointed task every time that it encourages students to compete for higher grades.

In any case, it is important that other areas of achievement be recognized and rewarded by the Institute. Just what should be encouraged, and how it should be rewarded are two of the topics now being studied. Dr. Snyder, of the Physics Staff, is Prof. Rode, former Dean of Students are doing the research.

Action has been taken. MIT has been vigorous in correcting some of theills described by the Sussman report. The student body has been involved in some of the decisions relating to small problems-solving sessions and popular formal reviews.

However, two basic problems remain. First, the major of the changes are merely surface changes from the campus. This makes it inconvenient for them to see students except during standard working hours.

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A candle in the dark

The Senate overwhelmingly ratified the nuclear test ban treaty last Tuesday. The treaty's strong support shows the American desire to step away from the brink of nuclear destruction.

One American expert in arms control and disarmament, Prof. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, says Soviet interests in signing the treaty were probably very much like our interests.

The Soviet main motivations in signing the test ban treaty, as we see it, are as follows:

1. The Russians feel that they are reasonably well off in weapons development and can afford to limit further testing.
2. Troubled by increasingly bitter relations with the Chinese and by a poor harvest, the Russians want to warm up relations with the West.
3. Creation of the treaty will help to curtail the spread of nuclear weapons to nations which do not possess them presently.
4. The Soviets feel an interest in steps toward preventing accidental war.
5. After signing the treaty, what now? Dean Rusk and Andrei Gromyko are now discussing areas of further agreement. We feel that future agreements may include:
   1. Stationing of observers at critical points such as transportation centers.
   2. Secretly observing war preparations of the other side.
   3. Stationing of observers at critical points such as transportation centers.

In any case, there are risks in signing an agreement with the USSR. Today's zig may be tomorrow's zag in Soviet interest. In our open society, this measure would cost us little. It would, however, lift the image of the treaty's equivalent of our National Assembly.

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Indian Delegate to U.N. will speak here today

Mme. Vilayna Lobanlukh, first counselor of India's delegation to the United Nations, will speak at MIT Tuesday, October 6. Sister of India's Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, and who agrees with JNP, is to point "mostile" should feel free to pick up the curt at 9:30 A.M. and carry the ball... Don't ask me. I don't know what never means in another language.

Inside Insomni - Who knows Aunt Elsie?

A cryptic title? Yes, certainly, but not a feuilleton one. Indeed, we have now at the office a past resolution addressed not to MIT but to the Senate. In it, the following points are raised:

1. Stationing of observers at critical points such as transportation centers.
2. Secretly observing war preparations of the other side.
3. Stationing of observers at critical points such as transportation centers.

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