Looking Back

By Bob Horvitz

40 years ago

... the main event of Fall Day was the football game of the freshman versus the sophomores. The Tech of November 3, 1965 presented a statistical analysis of the two teams. Both teams had an average age of 20 years, although it must be conceded that the sophomore team did have the oldest individual players, two of whom were over 25 years old. At 2:30 the Tech crowd towered over their opposition considerably; however, the Sophs tipped the scales at 154 pounds per man, compared with the 165 pound weight of the average freshman. The heaviest member of either team was the sophomore center, who weighed 217 pounds. The freshmen were concluded to be "easily the stronger team." In previous games, this "stronger" team led 47-4 to Brooklyn High and 21-0 to the Harvard "B" team. Despite their overwhelming strength, the freshmen were defeated 24-14.

... it seems, The Tech staff did a little bit more than merely publishing a newspaper, as is evidenced by the following advertisement which appeared in large, bold-face type:

"Need a good reliable fountain pen? The Tech has a limited number of fountain pens to sell. Call at The Tech office at 5 in the evening and learn of our mutual benefit scheme of buying suits, shoes, and fountain pens.

The company did not retaliate by printing its own newspaper.

20 years ago

... The Tech went wild. The main headlines, which took up half of the first page in the Fall Day issue of November 4, 1949 issue printed in black rod, announced: EXTRA! FLASH! DECLARER RUSHED ASHORE FOR PAGE 3." On the third page, two lines of headlines read: "Chances to be suspended for period of one week." Then came the article, "There will be no classes." It appeared on December 22, 1949, after the student union had announced: "The unification of the student body has been accomplished.

Newsworthy announcements appeared in this issue. For example, one article on page two revealed:

"The little room opposite the T.C.A. office in the basement of Walter Memorial has been dubbed "the William Robert Ahrendt, class '41, Lounge, the Committee For Nantucket Things at MIT announced late last night.

"This honor was conferred on the late Mr. Ahrendt as recognition of his splendid work in compassing the general public, the Committee said. The newly-rechristened room is connected by a vestibule to the office of the Walter Memorial Committee, of which Mr. Ahrendt was chairman. Until now the William Robert Ahrendt, class 41, Lounge bore the simple label, "SFS.""

39 years ago... riots broke loose throughout the halls of the Institute when the freshmen attempted to "give the shaft" to the sophomores. According to the issue of October 28, 1966, "Last Tuesday's 1 to 3, 6:52 lecture was a normal affair until about 10:30 a.m. when a mob of sophomores was heard outside the lecture hall. The freshman attempt to present the Purple Shaft to the sophomores. The mob broke together and rose to the call. With minutes 10:30 was deserted.

"Outside in the halls freshmen were crucially pampered for their foolishly deed, and many left the scene minus a set of brethren. Finally tally: many broken windows, many freshmen peaks in sophomore hands, and work pro- vided for about ten policemen, two nicely dogs, and an unknown number of patrol cars. And the shaf? Sophomores are smiling today."

Esquire announces five leaders in Tech 'Best-dressed man' contest

With about two weeks to go in Esquire's "Best-Dressed Men On Campus" event, the following MIT undergraduates are the leading contenders for the honor: Michael Dennis Scott '67, PDM; Howard Wriedt '67, PFL; Andrew Glessner '69, CP; and John Ingle '66, TDC; Ronald Noe '66, '62.

The contest, launched through the Tech, closes officially on November 15, 1965. All Nomination Ballots must be postmarked before this date. An ample supply of ballots have been made available on campus through the Tech, fraternity, sororities, and local men's wear retail shops. Should the supply run out, a postcard containing the candidate's name and address will be acceptable.

Chip Tolbert, Fashion Editor of Esquire, will visit MIT on November 30, 1965 to select the final contest winner. He will interview the top contenders personally, making his selection on the basis of general appearance, grooming, wardrobe coordination, articulate expression and fashion awareness.

The winner will represent MIT on Esquire's 1966 College Board Advisory Panel, consisting of 12 members, each representing a university in America.

In addition to MIT, similar contests are being conducted at the University of Washington, NYU, Dartmouth, Ohio State, Marquette, SMU, Arizona State, Stanford, and the University of Colorado. College Board members elected from each of these colleges will be Esquire's guests next Spring for a weeklong, all-expense-paid trip to New York, where they will participate in Esquire's 1966 Back-to-College Fashion Forum, and be photographed for the editorial fashion pages of the September issue. The Board will also be presented with an extensive wardrobe, including a wide range of shirts, trousers, and suits from some of the nation's leading men's wear manufacturers.

THE TECH
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1965
Page 7

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