elective freedom

MIT now has twenty-three academic departments all of which offer either specific courses as undergraduate electives or rather elementary graduate courses which may well not be the kind that students would want to rush through course requirements so as to avoid becoming discouraged with faculty members agreed to teach elective courses which presumably would normally fulfill their course’s degree requirements anyway.

In other words, many students under the new curriculum are acting just as if the old, rigid degree programs were still in effect. This is unfortunate for two reasons. First if students fail to take advantage of the liberalized programs we may soon find the Institute slide back into the lock-step, closely programmed type of degree program.

Secondly, many really good senior faculty members would agree to teach elective type courses under the new program in the hope of achieving closer contact with undergraduates. Now, with some professors becoming discouraged with the student response, a unique opportunity for small group interaction with outstanding faculty members may slip out of the undergraduate scene.

We realize how tempting it is to many to rush through course requirements so that the senior year is free for thesis or group activity or the opportunity to be with the ripest in the first three years, particularly with increased elective opportunity, may well be not the kind that students can afford to ignore.

Q is for quality?

Whatever happened to Q-Club? This club was once a fine student-run quadrangle Club as an honorary and service organization for outstanding sophomores. Stimulating sophomore class spirit, associated with outstanding scholarship achievements, and awarding a trophy to the outstanding freshman athlete of the year is listed as its activities. It sounds like a truly valuable organization.

Unfortunately we have heard nothing this past year about their activities, except that they performed their traditional tasks of naming the outstanding freshman athlete and electing the first-year student ambassador, a type of freshman to the nucleus of Q-Club ’68.

Does the sophomore honorary exist just to perpetuate itself? Or was it resting on its laurels last year? If it were true that not out of 500 sophomores the members of Q-Club were the cream of the crop, they might well sit around and congratulate themselves on their achievements. Class standings and smart sophomores who can tell you of many of their classmates who deserved membership but got slighted, may well be not the kind that students can afford to ignore.

front page photo of Building 2 taken by Arthur Kalotkin ’68.

Kibitzer

By Mark Bulotta

Question for the season by Richard H. A. Stone

K，S T

A Q J 6 4

A Q 6 4

Q 3 9 6

B N W S

A Q J 6 4

A Q 6 4

Q 3 9 6

West

North

7 5 6

3 19 9 3 2

7 6 5

9 3 2

East

South

Pass Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Q

Today’s hand should prove instructive to those who would like to try duplicate bridge for the first time and might wonder how duplicate would affect the play of the hand.

In rubber bridge this hand offers no great ideas for declarer to count. Declarer should do whatever he can to guarantee his contract. Club finesse will get him up about a thousand points for his slam, the duplicate play can only expect an average score. Consequently, he looks for a play for an overtrick or for a small point over the contract minus the score.

Declarer would play the hand at follow. At trick one, he would place his contract in too much finesse. He could have an extra trick available if the opponents were not onside to get the overtrick. If he had only one trick available, declarer could pick off his first two tricks with K, S, T, N, W, E.

North would lead Q, because the Q is normally a suitable lead. South, therefore, gets the chance to show his trump finesse. No, declarer would play the hand at follow. At trick one, he would place his contract in too much finesse. He could have an extra trick available if the opponents were not onside to get the overtrick. If he had only one trick available, declarer could pick off his first two tricks with K, S, T, N, W, E.

South holds the opening lead and must choose between the Ace or the Queen of trumps. If declarer has 4 ♦’s, an improvement on his organization. Merely belonging to an organization brings no credit to either member or club.

The Social Beaver describes Quad- retrograde matches will fit. Any excess over the operating budget, the T Club runs a series of articles by Edward T. Cole, a major in the U.S. Army, containing the following arguments and conclusions.

The Coop would not, as many feared, be a large source of revenue for the week-end. The Harvard Coop, the sponsoring firm. Neither would the Tech furnish up prices of supplies which presumably would themselves make large profits. Rather, success over the opening round cost would the members in the form of a division.

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