

Open House

Every other year the Institute opens its doors to the community at large and invites everyone to "come on down."

This year we can expect some 30,000 people—businessmen, high school students, families, and residents of Greater Boston—to descend on MIT. They are looking to add to their knowledge of the Institute, and they are probably expecting a show. In either case they will not be disappointed.

The administration, the faculty, and the students have teamed up to present an impressive display of MIT at its best—to demonstrate what we are, what we are doing, and where the future is taking us. Every department will have displays and demonstrations ranging from the truth about Quicksand to a sonar mapping of the bottom of the Charles. In addition, there will be participation from student activities, athletics, the labs, the libraries, and the music department.

New this year is an elaborate guided tour program and 25,000 tour kits (which had to be stuffed by hand). There will be a Central Exhibit of 70-80 large photographs of the Institute.

So elaborate a scale of operation has required the work of many people; 50-60 students and 20 to 30 faculty alone were engaged in obtaining and coordinating the departmental presentations. We offer kudos to those who have contributed so much time and energy to this operation.

There is still a need for tour guides and others to help. In addition, every student ought to take this opportunity for a lieisurely stroll around the campus. He will probably find it as enjoyable, entertaining, and informative as the rest of the community. Finally, in the words of Open House Chairman Ed Seykota '68 it would be nice to offer everyone "a warm handshake and a welcome" to MIT.

THE TECH

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Front page photo of the Student Center by Jeff Reynolds.

footnotes*

By Michael Warren

40. A change in a basic Institute policy may be in the offing for Open House. Up until now, for most scheduled events, the standing rule has been: "Children under twelve admitted when accompanied by parents." During Open House Weekend, there will be a special "Young Peoples" presentation of The Mikado by Gilbert and Sullivan. Children under twelve will be admitted free; junior high and high school students admitted for 50c; parents and teachers admitted for \$1—but only when accompanied by children.

41. While the LSC lecturers for this term, Harrison Salisbury, and Timothy Leary with Jerome Lettvin, have generated a good deal of enthusiasm, LSC tried and failed to get even bigger name speakers. Feelers were sent out to VP Hubert H. Humphrey, but he turned down the request to speak at MIT. Former Governor of Alabama, George Wallace, made tentative arrangements to lecture at Tech, and then cancelled out.

42. With all the recognition that MIT receives in many diversified areas, it can still be concluded that aspects of the Institute which deserve praise are often ignored. For example, MIT must be among the nation's leading schools in religious tolerance. A case in point is Burton House, Room 251, which is

home for Peter Rode '68, President of the Tech Catholic Club, and Ray Boxman '68, President of the MIT Hillel Association.

43. Anyone who even casually glanced at recent sports pages in The Tech would have had to see two of the most lopsided baseball scores ever. Boston College invaded MIT and mangled our baseball team, to the tune of 17-0. Later on in the season, we met Brandeis, and dismembered their team in a game called after 6 innings, 26-0. Last week, BC played Brandeis in what promised to be a horror show. Score: 43-0 (?), or 442-0 (?). NO! Boston College squeaked to a 2-1 victory, pushing the winning run across in the ninth inning.

44. Dr. Graham Blaine, Chief Psychiatrist at Harvard University, was a guest speaker at the recent Princeton symposium, Response. Dr. Blaine spoke in a panel discussion on "The Sexual Mores of Modern America," in which he explained the new morality, which associates sex and love, and not sex and marriage. In his introduction, he alluded to studies which have shown that girls of different nationalities react differently after going to bed with a man. "Russian girls," he said, "say 'I hope I'm pregnant.' French girls say: 'Gee, that was fun.' British girls say: 'Do you feel better now?' but American girls say: 'Do you still love me?'"

Letters to The Tech

Income tax

To the Editor:

Civil disobedience is always an interesting topic, but what fascinated some of my colleagues and me the most in your recent article about Professors Chomsky and Kampf was that they are in a position to refuse to pay half their federal income taxes at all!

I am sure that their less-fortunate peers would be grateful if we could be told how to raise our non-MIT income so that the amount of taxes withheld from our paychecks by MIT would amount to only fifty per cent of our tax bill.

Richard I. Mateles '66

joy the novelty of "getting married." All of the 125 couples married left the booth with a smile and none felt we were being irreligious or were in any way offended.

Mr. Basan further claims that those who "take religion seriously" were offended. I for one take my religion very seriously yet I am able to realize that something dealing with religion can be done tastefully and need not be offensive.

The Marriage Booth was in no way intended to be a slight at religion and I am sorry Mr. Basan took it that way.

Joel Gottfried '70
Secretary Burton House
Freshman Council

Tasteful marriage

To the Editor:

In reference to Mr. Basan's letter of April 14 claiming that the Marriage Booth at the APO Carnival was done in poor taste I feel he misses the point.

He implies that Burton Freshman Council though possibly meaning well actually did nothing more than ridicule organized religion. All we did was provide a place where a guy and his date could laugh at themselves and en-

Backward step?

To the Editor:

In the past two years, MIT has pursued a policy of elimination or reduction of General Institute Requirements. There is one major change in these requirements, however, that is a direct contradiction to this policy; the establishment of a twelve hour laboratory requirement for all students. It seems incomprehensible that an

Economics, Mathematics, Humanities, Industrial Management or Political Science major should be saddled with a twelve hour laboratory requirement in a field for which he has no interest. Would not a better policy be to allow each department to establish its own laboratory requirements?

Sam Leader '69

Building 10 uproar

To the Editor:

While I am heartily in favor of student political activities and organizations, I think it is high time that some controls were placed on the raucous behavior of those manning the booths in Building 10. It should not be necessary to "run the gauntlet" of people trying to sell me political literature, obtain my signature on petitions, or convert my political beliefs each time I leave my office. To remedy this situation, Secretariat should require members of organizations using the booths in Building 10 to stay behind their booths and keep their voices down to a low roar so that others might pass through the building unimpeded.

James A. Rome '64
Instructor of
Electrical Engineering

Inside Incomm

Student government suggests changes in academic realm

By Bob Horvitz, UAP

Student government directly affects you, the individual student. The many organizations within the Institute Committee continually work toward improvements in all facets of MIT undergraduate life: academic, environmental, extracurricular, and social reforms are being actively pursued.

Academics

Within the academic realm, there exists a definite need for more detailed and candid course descriptions. Statements explaining the number of quizzes and papers, the real knowledge prerequisite, a more detailed outline, and an explanation of the general philosophy and emphasis of each course should somewhere be available to the student. The two alternatives of either publishing a separate booklet, or significantly expanding the General Catalogue are currently being explored. Initial reaction from the faculty and administration has been quite favorable.

Further experiments concerning reading period are being seriously considered. One alternative of a

combined reading and finals period spread over two weeks has met with some favorable reaction from both students and administration. Such a system would have only one examination period per day, possibly from 10 am to 1 pm, or from 12 noon to 3 pm. No student would be left with the burden of two final exams on one day. The plan would probably schedule exams on Tuesday through Saturday of the first week and Monday through Friday of the second. If adopted, the plan would be then tried for the fall term of 1967, and feedback from it and the two preceding terms would be used in making a decision as to the ultimate structure of reading and finals period.

SOEP

Another recent project which could make a significant impact on MIT's educational system is SOEP's distribution of feedback questionnaires. The three forms are designed to help evaluate classroom subjects, laboratory courses, and teaching methods. Response has been overwhelming. Over 250,000 questionnaires have been requested by about 200 institutions. This data will hopefully effect revisions both in course curricula and teaching methods.

These are just a few of the ways student government is working to make the academic experience more closely reflect student wishes and needs. In future columns, I will describe the work done in the environmental extracurricular and social realms.

