Experiencing Reading Period

Last spring the Tech, in its editorial of May 9, put forth an alternative to the extended reading period then being tried. We suggested a plan which would eliminate the burden of two exams on one day. The Student Committee on Educational Policy has likewise recommended to the Faculty that a combination reading-finals period be tried this winter.

Under such a plan, the final would be interspersed over a two-week period in such a way that no one would have more than one final on any given day, and many would have exams only on alternate days. Last year’s experiment gave us an opportunity for a more leisurely overview of the term’s work before proceeding with an exam week. The tentative results show the plan was well received by students. The proposal eliminates the heavy burden which is still possible under an extended reading period, i.e., a student saddled with six hours of finals on a single day. The proposal also permits experimentation and innovation which existed last year to allow the SCEP proposal to be tried this winter. Most students’ memories were refreshed enough to be able to compare the old plan, last spring’s idea, and the latest proposal fairly accurately.

Letters to The Tech

Late callers

At 1:30 am, October 29, 1967, I received a telephone call from a young man who identified himself as a pledge from an MIT fraternity. I had had several similar late-night calls and did not appreciate being awakened at that hour, but I was too drowzy to turn him away.

The freshman informed me of the nature of his call and I was startled into a state of semi-consciousness. He told me that part of his pledge project was to call five girls at random and ask several personal questions regarding their sex lives. I decided not to play along for the moment, for he was far more embarrassing than I.

First, he asked me to tell him the truth and I agreed. Disatti-
mified with my "prudish" originality, he replied to his first question, he chose not to continue the interview and asked whether I knew anyone who could and would answer his questions. After my negative reply, he hung up without an apology or even a good-bye and I went back to sleep.

In the morning, I dismissed the whole incident as a dream, until another young man on the same floor, who mentioned he had received a telephone call from the same caller, was offered the same assignment at 5 am. I’ve always had a certain distrust of most freshmen and other fraternity initiatives, though I have been assured by friends in freshmen that the caller, unlike the last, passed after an incident where one pledge lost his life while a passenger in a washing machine. Fraternity initiations, though, are dangerous to the vulgar.

To the Editor:

CLA ’70

Bostn University

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