When dialogue begins

Marshall McLuhan, philosopher of communications media, once said, "Problems are produced by dialogue, not by decisions, and decisions are the fruit of dialogue." While other campuses around the country met demonstrations and resistance with silence or punishment, MIT chose to put McLuhan’s words to work.

The colloquium organized by Professor Murray Eden’s ad hoc faculty group met the issue of Dow’s presence on campus by choosing to represent both sides of the war, and the first intelligent interchange of ideas concerning the much publicized napalm and the university issue was possible.

Because of the hurried planning necessary to bring about the first discussion, the Dow representative was given extensive short notice, and he was not prepared with any well formulated remarks. This was unfortunate. The undoing of the meeting probably confused SDS as much, however.

As more and more students and faculty want to verbalize their feelings and questions about the war, the colloquium idea becomes an important innovation. We want the dialogue which can arise now to be continuous in the future with other Krege gatherings. Those who believe, however, that the discussions will eliminate demonstrations and protest are mistaken. Demonstrations do serve to focus attention dramatically on the issues, and if attendance were to lag at future gatherings, more dramatic means would most likely be employed.

Letters to The Tech

For the SDS

To the Editor:

Regarding the meeting of those of us in MITSDS who took part in the non-obstructive sit-at in the Region 2 anteroom of Kresge Auditorium, which was completely uneventful, neither of these two statements is true. The original initiative for the action was taken by members of MITSDS, but the complete vote, which was distributed were not all written by SDS members. The great majority of people at the meeting on Sunday night were not SDS members, and those who took part in the sit-at were largely not SDS members. We did not mind their being called SDS because we certainly would have to have them, but we did want to be accurate. Which brings me to the second point.

The article in Tuesday’s Tech claims that 90 people marched over to Kresge. That isn’t too far off—4 had the wrong address. However, nowhere in the article is mentioned that between 12 noon and 4 p.m. there were close to 200 people (not counting YAFers) sitting in and talking to a MITSDS consultant at 12 e'clock, after the meeting at Krege had ended, our ranks had multiplied, and the ruckus had spread to the student body. The consultant was not unprepared at MIT as is the consultant on the college student if he does not object to such irresponsible tactics.

As free men and as citizens of the United States, we have a right to be heard. President Nixon, in his recent press conference, was "eternal hostility to all forms of protest"; we object to such demagoguery whether in government or, on the campus, in general. It is possible for reasonable men to differ, but reasonable men would reconcile their differences by reason and not by recriminations or mud-slinging and vilification.

Mike Shapp ’70
David Pearson ’72
Mike Thompson ’70
John Wall ’69
R. Nick Ulrich ’70
Paul Evans ’71

Morality In

To the Editor:

Mr. Max Ray, of Dow Chemical, spoke last night to MITSDS. He says that his company or at least the management staff, feels that it is unable to judge the moral questions involved in such matters as manufacturing napalm for the United States government. In Mr. Key’s position, as head of a large business firm manufacturing chemicals we are not experts on morality.”

It seems to me that Dow has not really mastered the matter very carefully. If they indeed feel that they are unable to solve the problem then they should do what they would do with any “impossible” problem—farm it out to consultants.

Of course, we cannot expect Dow to be proficient at everything. If they indeed feel that they are unable to solve the problem then they should do what they would do with any “impossible” problem—farm it out to consultants.

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Footnotes*

by Michael Warren

104. A recent advertising campaign for The Wall Street Journal emphasized that the Krege has several subscriptions to their paper. This, they argued, was an indication of the diversity as well as the importance of their readers. Well, The Tech would like to play some one-upmanship. The Wall Street Journal just took out a subscription to The Tech, which indirectly gives us some very impressive readers.

105. A flyer recently distributed by the Electronic Systems Labs, publishing a full by Donn Duncan of the Economics Dept. entitled "A Dual Maximum Principle for Discrete-time Linear Systems," must be a prime example of obscure scientific literatures. The abstract was:

"A discrete-time linear optimal control problem with given terminal horizon, state-control constraints, and fixed and final points is set forth. This primal control problem is reformulated as a dual linear programming problem. Corresponding to the primal linear programming problem is a dual linear programming problem. The duality function is reformulated as an optimal control problem which is the dual of the primal control problem. A dual maximum principle is derived from the dual of the Hamiltonian of the dual control problem. The analysis is generalized to include variables and points. An economic interpretation of the results is presented and a number of applications are given."

Am I ever glad I missed the one.

106. Speculation continues that milk will be raised for the academic year '68-'69. Although the exact amount isn't yet known, it will probably be around $200, bringing it to the neighborhood of $2100. A formal decision & rule expected until spring of '69.

107. Earlier this week, my roommates had the start of some sense of being encouraged by three ladies suffering in its lobby of Building 16. The girl, all 18 freshmen, simply approached every male passerby and asked, "Hey, I'm lonely. Tell me about it." They then tabulated information about the people they interviewed, dependent on whether the person had stopped to listen, what they were called "indifferent" or "scared off." The girls said they were looking for general reactions from different college groups. Their target was to hit Harvard and Brandeis first. The three had also tried dropping from the balcony where they passed by, but without any success.