

# Untitled

According to all the reports from the admissions office, each year's Freshman are, in general, less sure of which specific field in science or engineering they wish to major. The current liberalization of Institute requirements, along with the liberation of the freshman year from the encumbrment of grades, makes this an appropriate time to bring up the subject of the unspecified program, and to see whether or not the current one is fulfilling its goals.

The most widely publicized degree is that of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, which is reputed to be the most liberal of all these courses (with the possible exception of the Sloan School's Systems Program). Yet, the major in this program must still take a minimum of 54 hours from Course II.

This program leaves much to be desired. For one thing, what about the student who wishes to take engineering subjects from several departments, yet concentrate in a field other than mechanical engineering? This student has two choices: either go to course two, or major in a field in which he is not sufficiently interested to warrant his taking some of that department's requirements.

Another point: what of the science major who wishes to take introductory courses in several departments in the School of Science? There is virtually no way for him do to so, except through heavy use of academic petitions and a long struggle with red tape.

We would like to propose what we consider to be an equitable solution to these problems. Why not create a General Studies program in each of the schools of science and engineering? The requirements we feel would be appropriate for such a program are outlined below; However, they offer much more freedom to the student who feels that science or engineering is the field for him, but does not wish to make his decision based on the limited sampling which his freshman year offers. This program is also a blessing for those who at the moment are majoring in management as undergraduates, simply because they do not plan to be scientists or engineers, but would have liked a broad background in one of those fields as undergraduates to prepare them for a business career.

Requirements for such a program should be kept to the minimum. We feel that requiring the engineering students to take the introductory courses from four of the six fields of engineering would be adequate. Science requirements could be set accordingly. Further, students should be required to concentrate in one field, in much the same manner as the department of Mechanical Engineering has set up its program; however, that the individual should have the freedom to choose this department for himself.

Regarding the laboratory requirement, it should be made a definite and integral part of this degree, with hours specified and students required to take at least one laboratory elective from their field of concentration. Once again, appropriate courses could be designed for this purpose.

One final point—this program rests on the assumption that each department will be willing to designate one of its courses as a survey course in that field. Departments which do not already have such courses should create them. In other words, without the cooperation of the various individual departments, this program could never hope to succeed.

# THE TECH



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Front page photo of the Esplanade by Dave Simanski.

## Blood at Columbia

It is exceedingly difficult to reach an objective judgment concerning recent events at Columbia. On the one hand, it seems fair to conclude that the university administration has been insensitive to the needs and desires of the student body and the neighboring community. The fact that 8500 students have signed a petition demanding the resignation of Columbia President Grayson Kirk and the fact that the faculty has taken the role of mediator rather than supporter of the administration suggest strongly that dissatisfaction with the administration goes far beyond the activists who occupied Hamilton Hall.

On the other hand, it is equally clear that the vast majority of Columbia students do not support the violent means chosen by SDS and their sympathizers to achieve their goals. When a community of "intellectuals" is forced to call in 1000 armed men to keep order among themselves, something is very wrong. It is all the more regrettable that this catastrophe has been caused by such a tiny minority of Columbia students.

One thing which has become apparant as a result of the events this week is the regrettable lack of communication among faculty, students, and administration. This problem is becoming more and more common as campuses grow to enormous proportions, and universities across the country would be well advised to examine their own situation regarding this problem. Although the preoccupation of most MIT students with academic matters precludes the possibility of anything similar happening this on campus, the Institute need not consider itself a model in this respect.

The general ineptitude of the Columbia administration was apparent even in the way in which the demonstration was handled. Had fifty campus police moved quickly into Hamilton Hall at the outset, the demonstration could have been squelched at the cost of angering student activists rather than bloodshed. Now, both sides have so many chips on the table that any sort of peace within the foreseeable future is most unlikely.

## Welcome, parents

This weekend, roughly a thousand parents who have been wondering what their offspring have been doing here are finding out. We take this opportunity to welcome them to the campus, and hope they enjoy their stay. Now, if your son (or daughter) hasn't been writing regularly, we'd like to tell you about subscriptions to a newspaper...

## footnotes \*

by Dean Roller

- \*24. Results of Innisfree's readership survey were heartening indeed to The Tech. 72% of Innisfree's purchasers regularly read The Tech while only 65% read the New York Times. Other publications which polled a considerable percentage of votes were (in order) Avatar, Time Magazine, the Boston Newspapers, Scientific American, and Life Magazine. Techmen are to be congratulated for their excellent tastes in reading material.
- \*25. A temporary peace settlement was recently reached in the eternal war between Burton House and neighboring DKE. Latest exclamation resulted from the theft of the Burton House flag; however, Burton men felt retribution was in order and soon thereafter the DKE fraternity house was notably minus one door. A peace settlement was reached soon thereafter.
- \*26. A quick perusal of the recently distributed schedule for final exams revealed to several Techmen course 19.84 was appropriately enough having a final in the Armory..... 2 days before Memorial Day?##
- \*27. Most students have by this time become aware of the prolonged construction taking place on the first floor of the Humanities Building. One Techman, in the spirit of creative art, posted a sticker on one of the partially demolished walls with the following inscription: "Wall"-'1968.

- MIT Building & Power; Plaster of Firebrick; from the collection of Howard W. Johnson.
- \*28. Should one venture a little further into the entrance to the library one might notice another informative note on a tree near the checkout desk, reading: "Caution! Keep off the leaves... voracious appetite.... leave nothing...."
- \*29. Readers of The Tech who were upset by Activities Executive Board head Al Singer's scathing criticism of the operation of Technology Student Enterprises will be glad to know that Singer is embarking on a trip to Europe this summer..... accommodations by TSE of course.
- \*30. Several Techmen have been quite impressed by the carpeting and padded seats in the new Advanced Engineering Center Lecture Hall. We can only help but wonder whose oversight arranged for all seats on the aisle to lack collapsible desks, very thoughtful of the Institute to allow students lucky enough to procure such seats to sleep through lectures without obstacles in their way.
- \*31. The Inscomm budget for next year has taken a beating because of the losses incurred by this year's Spring Weekend. Although the figures aren't final yet, best estimates are that '68 dropped a cool \$9,000, mostly due to circumstances far beyond the control of the committee.

## Letters to The Tech

### Junk

To The Editor:  
Is the junk (referring only to the tires and rusted metal) in front of the Student Center a part of the humanizing of the Institute? If so, that's one aspect of humanity we don't need sitting on our lawn.

Pop art may have a function, but in this case its a self fulfilling prophecy. If we want to arouse our consciences by viewing junk, we have the rest of Cambridge to delight us. Please leave the few beautiful places around the Institutet undefiled.

To emphasize the burning of cities, should we set fire to building 10? In memory of men and women dying in Viet Nam should I keep a corpse in my room?

No amount of moral significance, "artistic" insight, or anguish of the artist can make that junk look like anything more than junk!

Tom McKenna '71

### Course 17

To the Editor:  
May I write to clarify some points in the story in the April 26th issue concerning science requirements for Course 17 majors. There are several different issues involved.

One issue is the amount of science that should be demanded by the general Institute requirements for students who are not majoring in the natural

sciences. A reduction in that amount is advocated by the petition signed by most Course 17 majors. The faculty, both inside and outside the Political Science department, is of divided opinions on this question.

A second issue concerns whether the specific science subjects designated in present Institute requirements are the appropriate ones for majors in the so-called "three small schools." The faculty of the Political Science department believe that the present specifications are not optimal and has submitted recommendations to the CEP for changes in these specifications.

A third issue for each department is what science requirements to impose in its departmental curriculum over and above the general Institute requirements. Until this year students in Course 17 were required to take 24 hours of science beyond the basic Institute requirements. This additional requirement has now been eliminated. A careless reader of the story in The Tech might misinterpret that action to mean that the Political Science department was thereby modifying or implicitly opposing the general Institute requirements. That is certainly not implied.

We welcome the fact that this whole issue has been opened by the CEP and by the student petition. The one thing that the Department as a department is likely to agree upon is that there is need for curricular improvement. When it comes to specific proposals there is probably just as much disagreement within the department as within the Institute as a whole.

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