

# Consider the President as Royalty . . .

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By Jack Anderson

WASHINGTON — On the day Thomas Jefferson was inaugurated third President of the United States, he arose in a small Washington rooming house, dressed himself plainly, walked like an ordinary citizen to the site of the inauguration ceremony, delivered a speech about subordination of government to individual rights and then walked back to his boarding house.

Upon entering the dining room, he found that all the seats at the table were occupied. No one was asked to give up his seat and no one offered the new President a place. Accepting the democratic principle of first-come-first-served, Jefferson went up to his room without his dinner.

He was not a clodhopper, unused to the amenities, but one of the world's sophisticates, a man of wealth, the master of a great plantation. Yet in his public capacity, he was determined to impart an example of simplicity and subservience.

Somewhere between Thomas Jefferson and Richard Nixon, our homely tribunes have developed a hankering to transform the American Republic into a monarchy and themselves from servants into sovereigns.

Consider the scene at one of President Nixon's state dinners. His entry into the East Room of the White House was heralded by the blast of trumpets. The Marine buglers wore scarlet tunics festooned with gold braid; banners were draped from their elongated trumpets.

At the sound of the fanfare, the President descended the grand staircase,

with the First Lady on his arm, while the Marine band played him down with processional music. Mr. Nixon took deliberate, measured steps, beaming benevolently in the manner of monarchs. As he entered the East Room, the band snapped into "Ruffles and Flourishes," followed by the traditional "Hail to the Chief."

Later, when the Nixons passed from the East Room into the dining room, trim military aides bedecked with medals and braids stood starchy at attention in two rows. The dinner guests were surrounded all evening by an impressive swirl of military uniforms. In addition to the dashing military aides, various military musical units serenaded the guests. All the while, white-gloved Negro waiters scurried about with trays full of delicacies.

We may not fully perceive the moral degradation inherent in all the splendorous monarchical trappings now surrounding the presidency, complete down to the detail of medieval trumpets, until we look back toward our national origins.

Sixty years after Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln continued the example of simplicity sufficiently that a British ambassador could be shocked by coming upon Lincoln in the White House shining his own shoes.

Lincoln would often answer the White House door. He would travel on foot to the various departments to deliver his instructions and to get their reports.

For recreation, he did not repair to kingly estates across the continent but contented himself with riding horseback alone around Washington, quite unprotected, even though he had been shot at

and knew men were out to kill him.

It was painful for Lincoln to refer to himself as "the President" and he would go through great circumlocutions to get around that phrase. He signed his letters "your obedient servant." Though compelled by events sometimes to assume almost dictatorial powers, he was one with Jefferson in glorifying not the government of majesty and omnipotence we see today but, as every schoolboy knows, government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Material perquisites have become an index of greater and greater accretions of power over the public.

The "reductio ad absurdum" was Martha Mitchell with her own office and staff, FBI agents ironing her frocks, government limousines and chauffeurs at her beck, while her husband presided over the plan to break in, burgle and wiretap his political opponents.

Or Chief Justice Warren Burger asking that a gold carpet be rolled out before him as he entered the Supreme Court chamber and for a government mansion to house his imperial presence.

Permeating it all is the odor of pseudo-divinity with which government these days surrounds itself; its denial, wherever it can get away with it, of the right of the citizen to know or of the press to publish; its reflex hostility to every attempt to hold it to account or even to question its motives.

The nadir of this movement is seen in the Nixon Administration: the inaccessible President trying to evoke a Gaullist presence; the programmatic lying to the public; the scorn for the press; the battalions of courtier-sycophants, loyal

only to "the presidency"; the claim of inherent power to bomb, make war, impound money, spend without appropriations; the wallowing in the panoply of neo-Kaiserism down to the comic opera uniforms, with white jackets and pointed plastic hats, that Nixon once presumed to deck the White House police in.

Around the Kaiser are grouped the bureaucratic princes who each year are more impenetrable, more impervious to public control and more prone to Mussolini-style suites; and the congressional barons, ever building their private fiefdoms while surrendering legitimate powers of the people to the Executive.

There is still an occasional Senate elder, like Sam Ervin, D.-N.C., or George Aiken, R-Vt., who lives simply in some hostel near the Capitol and goes about his business with a minimum of pomp, presumption and freeloading. But the ancient regime restored can be seen in most government enclaves.

There is a sore need for a new skepticism toward the claims of omniscience and omnipotence which politicians are wont to make. So should it be with every citizen of the Republic, and especially with every journalist.

## Summer news summary

Compiled by Paul Schindler

(The administration, the faculty and the news office were all busy over the summer, making news. Some of the news has been condensed and appears below.)

### CTSS' Final Crash

CTSS (Compatible Time Sharing System) crashed for the final time this summer. Its IBM 7094 went off line July 20, after 12 years of . . . service. It is being replaced by Multics. The 7094, with callous disregard for sentiment, was sold to a used equipment dealer.

### Course XXV

Dr. Louis Howard, professor of mathematics, now heads the interdisciplinary science course. 27 students set up their own "general science" major last year.

### Class Gift

Showing a lot of class, the class of 1923 gave MIT a little over \$8 million on the occasion of its 50th reunion. That's \$7 million over the previous record. The class of '33 gave a healthy \$816,371, and the class of '48 gave \$597,560.

### Recent Classes Rep

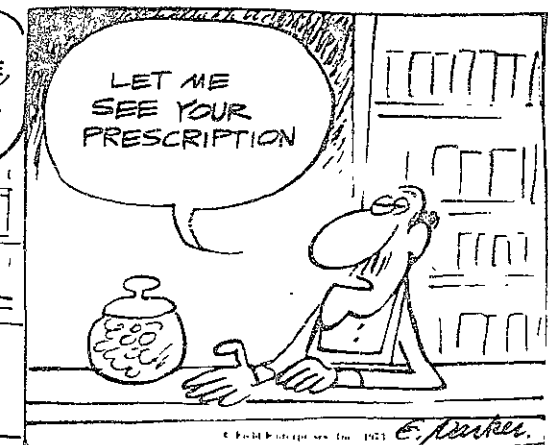
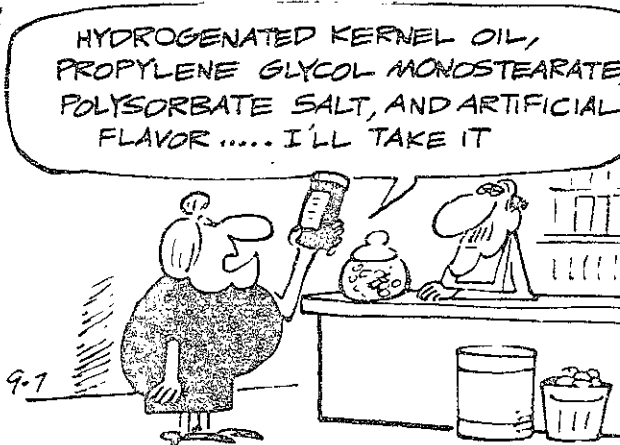
Larry Storch '71 is the new representative of recent classes on the MIT Corporation. He has already served one year in the post; he is currently enrolled at Harvard Law School.

### Commencement

Ninety-nine women (a record) were among the 1290 people (840 undergraduates) who were given 1450 degrees at MIT on June 1.

Dr. Jerome Wiesner, president of the Institute, told the 4500 people at the ceremony in Rockwell Cage that society needs to develop processes by which solutions to social problems can be found and put less emphasis on sometimes unreachable goals.

### THE WIZARD OF ID



The Wizard of Id appears daily and Sunday in The Boston Globe

The day before, Dick Gregory told a Class Day crowd of seniors gathered in Kresge to "understand who you are and what you're all about."

### Women

One hundred years ago, Ellen S. Richards was the first woman to graduate from MIT. In honor of that occasion, the Institute provided seed money for a faculty chair named after her. They are looking to complete the funding, so a female professor can be appointed from any of the five schools to the post, under the supervision of the Provost.

The first female officer started work in the MIT Campus Patrol over the summer. She is Maureen Twomey.

The first woman professor in the MIT Athletic department was appointed this summer. She is Mary-Lou Sayles, and will be director of women's athletics. She has made an increased number of women's sports her top priority.

### Minority Post Open

James C. Allison, Jr., assistant to the Chancellor for Minority Affairs, took a leave of absence for work at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, effective July 1. Allison has been in this and a similar previous post since 1968. No replacement has yet been found.

Chancellor Paul Gray expressed the Institute's appreciation for Allison's "valuable and dedicated service."

### Enemies List

MIT has more people on the enemies list than any other organization. The list was compiled by aides of President Nixon. According to a summer article in Science magazine, the Institute was more than just listed.

The article, reprinted in the Boston Globe and the Washington Post, quotes

memos to H.R. Haldeman and from John Ehrlichman which mention an order by Nixon to "cut back on MIT's subsidy in view of Wiesner's anti-defense bias."

### Two more professors

All sorts of faculty promotions were announced over the summer — but two stood out, mainly because some people hadn't even realized that J. Herbert Hollomon and Richard Leacock weren't full faculty members with permanent appointments. They are now.

### HEW Approves Affirmative Action

After being found out of compliance with HEW regulations in 1972, and after a brief contract cancellation scare at the end of March, 1973, the Institute's Affirmative Action plan has been approved in glowing terms by the government. "In some aspects the Institute has gone beyond minimum standards of compliance, and should be commended," said a letter from an HEW official. It happened Friday, July 20.

### NNSG

The Network News Study Group, associated with the Department of Political Science, reported this summer that the civil rights of the highest executive are no safer than those of the lowest street criminal.

The group reached the conclusion after analyzing network TV coverage of the Watergate matter, especially coverage since April 30, when those involved either quit or were fired.

### EE Moves

The Electrical Engineering Department and the Research Lab of Electronics moved into the Fairchild building (buildings 36 and 38) in June, as scheduled. Course 6 headquarters are now in 36-409, x3-4600.

by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

Continuous News Service

# The Tech

Since 1881

Vol. XCIII, No. 28 September 7, 1973

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Second class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. The Tech is published twice a week during the college year, except during vacations, and once during the first week of August by The Tech, Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: (617) 253-1541.