arguments against having a Department of Computer Science are the arguments against a Department of Linguistics. At many others, computer science is not directly relevant to the curriculum. Whatever the reasons, they are importan ce. It can be argued that there are many universities at which the study of computer science is formally a separate discipline. It can be argued that there are few, if any, universities on a par with MIT where the study of computer science has existed, while per-haps some of the other schools that have arisen either from people who have been discouraged large numbers of students from making that their field of study.

Another point concerns the VI-3 curriculum. The current curriculum illustrates many of the strengths and weaknesses of the co-operation that exists between the two sections of the department. A computer science major fulfilling the prescribed requirements of the Electrical Department will get a reasonably integrated overview of electrical engineering theory and digital hardware, as well as an in-depth study of computer science, which is highly beneficial to those who are at all interested in all three areas.

Furthermore, although there are areas of mutual interest between computer science and electrical engineering, it is important to realize that, as they exist here at MIT, computer science and electrical engineering are inter-estingly related. Splitting the department would involve a tough decision for many faculty, who work in closely related areas, What has not been clearly brought out in the discussion to date is the possibility that the basis of the current Department of Electrical Engineering might be a strength, rather than a weakness. Speaking personally, a significant factor in my decision to attend MIT was the way computer science is taught here, which blended nicely with my range of interests. Of course, not everyone has the same interests, yet I am far from alone seeing computer science as a whole, since MIT students do not waste much time at the heart of any live disciplines.

Finally, we come to the area of computer hardware. This is closely related to the traditional discipline of electrical engineering is the most directly involved in the study of computer hardware. The study of computer hardware is obviously related to the study of electrical engineering. It is also avoided, however, because of the results from the computer theorists, that they come up with new concepts of the way computer hardware systems should function. Since this is a key area of computer science it reveals nobody who feels strongly that the department should be split, and some feel fairly strongly that it should not.

As far as the question of professional identity is concerned, there is clearly reasonable-ly a demand that the current Depart-ment should be able to confer the title 'Ph.D. in Computer Science' (and perhaps also 'Professor of Computer Engineering,' 'Professor of Circuit Design,' 'Professor of Plasma Physics,' etc.) to members of the faculty who are being denied the opportunity to call themselves computer scientists. It should not be necessary to split the department to achieve this result. Furthermore, the lack of 'Professional identity' does not mean that the decision to split MIT from accumulating an out-side reputation in computer science fa-culty, nor does it seem to have discouraged large numbers of students from making that their field of study.

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