Students across nation approve of quarter plan

By Henry Florestzi

The quarter plan academic calendar, as proposed for MIT, has met with general approval at schools using it, according to an informal survey conducted by The Tech.

A School of Engineering "Self-Assessment Project" recently reported one problem "that students mentioned among other things that MIT change to a calendar based on the quarter system.

Most of the students surveyed at the California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech), Northwestern University, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago expressed positive opinions on the quarter plan.

A University of Chicago student, who studied during the summer, trimester, and quarter systems, had a common point: "(The quarter system) is a good way to go to school. I prefer it, mostly to the trimester system because it gives you more freedom anywhere you can take the most elective courses than you might otherwise be able to do. This way you can keep and you have to keep up, but if you really want to get the most, it's really the best way to do it. The only problem is that the exams come up on you quickly."

The only way to read this opinion from the half-dozen or so students interviewed was from a Stanford student who had transferred from Syracuse, which is on the trimester system. The quarter system is "... too computerized. I said that just getting into things when it's over, and everything just moves quickly. If you may ask a lot of studying, you just fall behind. It's hard."

The other extreme, however, was given by a third-year chemical engineering student. She replied enthusiastically, "It's the best way to do it."

Corpses lost; medicine gained

By Margaret Brandes

It didn't take long for entrepreneurs to realize that corpses would pay well for body. Why was grave robbing a choice economical activity for many years? Its origins are addressed at the Halloween Concours Forum by University of Cincinnati Professor Saul Benison in a speech entitled "The History of Grave Robbing" which began with the bizarre into a serious discussion of the history of anatomy.

Benison explained that grave robbing resulted from the conflict between man's expecations of the fear of the dead and the 17th-century Scientific Revolution. As scientific study of human anatomy became popular, anatomists found themselves hampered by legal bans on dissection of human corpses.

The body of a dangerous criminal who had been executed might occasionally be purchased over to some famous surgeon, but these few bodies were not enough to fill the demands of the surgeons interested in anatomy.

Surgical schools were forced to find secret ways of obtaining bodies themselves. If they would go out along the local highways where the bodies of executed criminals were tossed, they might steal away with some body they especially wanted, or, if the body was particularly fresh, might come back at night and make off with the whole body. But anatomy was a hunching science, and the demand for corpses was too great to be satisfied by this supply.

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