Looking Back:
Costs raised in past

Editor's Note: The annual "annoying tuition riot," as well as the students' deeper feelings of resentment and frustration at the seemingly inexorable rate of tuition rise, are far from being new occurrences. This opinion page column from almost twenty years back analyzes the tuition situation ($3900 ago). (Reprinted from April, 1961)

Looking back upon the announced rise in tuition, and the "riot" that followed, certain conclusions can be drawn. First, several hundred dollars really does sound like an appalling amount of money to have to spend for an education each year; the average per capita income in this country is only a few hundred dollars more a year than MIT's tuition will be. The fact alone is enough to give anyone pause in considering the state of higher education in the private universities of this country. If the trend of the past ten years continues, MIT tuition will go to two thousand dollars within the next five years. Where the cost increase spiral will end nobody is willing to attempt to guess. The growing disparity between cost at the large state universities and cost at the private institutions, as well as the growing disparity between the number each educates is going to force a hard look at the goals of the private institutions.

MIT and the Ivy League colleges, have determined to maintain the size of their student bodies at pretty much the present level. Any increase in size will come about very slowly, over a period of many years. The post-war jump in enrollment that occurred at MIT is not expected to happen again. Thus the private schools are going to find themselves educating a elite group of students: those who can gain admission and also afford the financial drain. If the private schools hope to continue to attract qualified students, they will have to maintain some kind of superiority over the publicly supported schools. This superiority will have to be an intellectual one, both in the research laboratories, and in the classroom. The example of the University of California, and other state universities is proof that this superiority is going to be more and more difficult to maintain as the years go by.

We sincerely hope, that MIT, as something of a pace-setter in the tuition area, will be able to convince high school students that paying for an MIT education is worthwhile and that financial help is available. The nine percent drop in applicants for the freshmen class of 1965 has not proved to be attributable to the high cost of an MIT education, but it has not been disproved either.

The riot that followed the night after the announcement of the tuition increase was a sort of protest of resigned bewilderment. It really does seem as though no one quite knew what to say or do about the rise. As it was, there was more noise than anger, and certainly more noise than destruction. It rather is-loudness the biggest papers that coverage of the story. As Dr. Stratton remarked, "It didn't sound like our riot." Fortunately, most of the town papers ignored it in favor of the more spectacular Fort Lauderdale commotion. Not that we are in favor of suppressing a good story just because it might be somewhat embarrassing to MIT, public relations conscious as it is, but this was simply not worthy of the play it received in the Boston papers.

The aspect of the riot that has brought the attention of the Office of the Dean, is the indication that it was not spontaneous and unpremeditated. On the contrary, the existence of a riot "schedule" and good evidence that the demonstration was planned by certain individuals in advance, has brought the Judicial Committee into the picture. The leaders of any such demonstration as this, can always expect to get into trouble. Particularly when they are trying to have the idea of "having a riot," with the idea of what they are rioting over.

Making an Announcement?

Whether you are presenting a seminar, offering a course, organizing a protest or throwing a party, The Tech Production Shop can meet your typesetting needs. When you want to attract attention, our equipment can set text in a bewildering assortment of bizarre type styles.

If, on the other hand, your needs are more complex, our computerized text editing and justification system can handle the most intricate document.

As for our capacity to handle major efforts, the Freshman Handbook is just one of the big jobs that pass through our shop every year, not to mention The Tech itself.

And our staff has the experience to advise you on the most effective presentation and the expertise to put it together.

The Tech, not just another pretty (type) face.

TEAM NEEDS OUTSTANDING PEOPLE

And we can offer outstanding career opportunities to those majoring in Mathematics, Science, Marketing, Engineering or Computer Science.

We will be interviewing at MIT on February 14, 1978

To find out about IBM and let us find out about you, sign up for an interview at the Placement Office or write to: W.A. Dickert, Corporate College Relations Manager, IBM Corporation, 99 Church Street, White Plains, NY 10601.

IBM
An Equal Opportunity Employer