A look at the role of fraternities and the Institute in the mid-sixties

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"undemocratic," "immoral," "timid," they are in some places fighting for their very existence. At more than one school they have been completely and efficiently killed by the administration.

MIT and Fraternities

The attitude shown by the MIT administration is favorable to fraternities — so favorable as to be thought-provoking. The Institute is not run by gung-ho old alumni brothers, nor does the administration have a high housing shortage alone account for the degree of freedom allowed to the students and their fraternities. The school, professors, and administration are on one side of the battle, and the students and their fraternities on the other. At MIT, in contrast, we try to develop the "pitched camp" theory of fraternities. The students who are trusted, respond accordingly. It is important to realize, therefore, just how different MIT is in this respect.

Every fraternity should remember that the dorm residents may not believe their Rush Week line, and the pledges of other houses may.

Not perfect

There would be no sense in writing this if the system were perfect, and all the responsibilities understood, and all the promises kept. But the inevitable problems slip in. There is always some depledging and disillusionment and deterioration of ideals. There are not serious enough to warrant a change in the Institute's basic position; but they are not trivial enough to be ignored.

We feel it important that fraternity men realize one fact: that without active cooperation with the Institute, without striving for high ideals, without a mature responsibility to their pledges, fraternities at MIT are no different from the state university houses that cause a poor general reputation for fraternities. This is why the administration's trust is not to be taken lightly.

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