Engineer licensing
unnecessary intrusion

T-shirts fascinate me. There must be a T-shirt design for every issue, every statement, every new idea under the sun. Recently I met a very pretty young woman whose T-shirt emblem appeared to be a schematic diagram of a female engineer. The inductively coiled hair and simplified features of the illustration were in marked contrast to the long dark brown hair and agreeable countenance of the wearer. She said the shirt had come, via a circuitous route, from the Canadian IEEE, which brings me to the subject of this column.

The IEEE (pronounced eye-triple-e, for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is a professional society which has 175,000 members in this country, and includes many members of MIT's faculty, staff, and student body. It spans a large number of related disciplines from computer science to micro-engineering, but in many respects, it is similar to other occupational associations such as the AIA (your choice of Medical or Management) or the Teamsters union.

Information, not policing

The IEEE differs from the associations of independent professionals on one hand and the trade unions on the other in its general orientation. To date, the IEEE has functioned mainly as an information exchange; it runs a number of regional trade shows and publishes a variety of journals on many aspects of electrical engineering. It does not serve as a policing organization for the professional standards of its membership in the American Medical and Bar Associations do, and it does not exist to preserve the traditional arrangements, like the Teamsters.

To me, this seems like the ideal sort of professional society: a sort of scientific community for practicing professionals. By serving as a forum for the dissemination of new technology and ideas, the IEEE maintains its relevance to the largest possible community and helps to enhance the economic freedom of its members. In other fields, such as medicine, where professional organizations control or strongly influence the market for long unless someone is willing to buy them, consider the effect on our economy.

Examples exist much closer to the "average" blue-collar home: did you ever wonder why T-shirts are always a size larger than the one you wear? If the shirt had come, via a circuitous route, from the Canadian IEEE, which brings me to the subject of this column.

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Quality control of engineering solutions is often cited as an argument for "professional" standards. Granted, some very shoddy products exist in the marketplace, but career engineers do not stay on the market long enough to throw them out. An example is the parasited housing industry, which probably has the largest single effect on our economy.

Comfortable doctors -- and Teamsters

Unions and trade associations which control or strongly influence the membership of their fields have historically had a negative influence on those fields. Because of regulated entry into the field, salaries are raised, competition is diminished, innovation is discouraged, and members are generally made more comfortable. The medical profession is the most obvious example of this trend, and the Teamsters union is discovering, to its chagrin, that the Law of Diminishing Returns also applies to truck drivers' jobs.

The Teamsters are also an invitation to government control. Somewhere politicians that crusade against monopolies seem to feel that every small group, public or private, that is willing to accept an invitation to itself is discovering, to its chagrin, that the Law of Diminishing Returns also applies to truck drivers' jobs. The Teamsters are also an invitation to government control. Somewhere politicians that crusade against monopolies seem to feel that every small group, public or private, that is willing to accept an invitation to itself is discovering, to its chagrin, that the Law of Diminishing Returns also applies to truck drivers' jobs. The Teamsters are also an invitation to government control. Somewhere politicians that crusade against monopolies seem to feel that every small group, public or private, that is willing to accept an invitation to itself is discovering, to its chagrin, that the Law of Diminishing Returns also applies to truck drivers' jobs.

You know the kind of T-shirt I'm talking about. They do not stay on the market long enough to throw them out. An example is the parasited housing industry, which probably has the largest single effect on our economy.

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To the editor:

A week ago last Friday a friend of mine told me that I should read The Tech because there was a good article in it. Well there certainly was and the article's author was J. Spencer Love. I say three cheers for Mr. Love and his fine perceptions about MIT's link of real social conscience. I was beginning to believe that MIT students would be more likely to have student strikes over the issue of Christmas trees than the more pressing social concerns of sex, racism, anti-Semitism and anti-gay feelings which I personally feel are quite pervasive in the community. Of course most of it is a very subtle nature, though, and not immediately apparent to the passive observer.

I must admit that I was quite buoyed up by Mr. Love's mention of GAMIT in his article. Not because I like seeing our name in print but because after having our bulletin board torn down and all of our housing broken into, and all of our dorm posters ripped down and all of our letters being taken from the community even after letters had been published in The Tech, I was starting to believe that either no one knew that we existed or that the community quietly condoned such behavior. Even if the latter was true we were always passed it with the idea people would take responsibility for their opinions and express them in print. But I guess I should be more realistic and accept the fact that no matter what happens to GAMIT and its right to the free expression of ideas it will never generate the counterstrategy like that surrounding the Christmas trees or class rings.

Well, on the Friday that Mr. Love's article came out GAMIT was going to have one of its dances and I had hoped that maybe people would read the article and think about the issues and possibly examine their own feelings. On the same night there was going to be the very last Strat's Rat (brought to you by Ed King) and I thought that maybe people would wander over to our dance too.

Well, a lot of MIT students did and I think that they all had a good time. And with them came some boys with the intention of purposely starting trouble. These boys (the term is carefully chosen) seem to find it necessary to build up their low self-esteem and illusion of masculinity by pushing around a bunch of guys and trying to intimidate them. The same type of behavior that most men leave behind them on the school playground. Only these boys didn't and ended up trying to threaten a bunch of faggots that were not about to be intimidated. An incident then took place (shoving people about and the throwing of a bottle and chair) which was witnessed by many people. I was responsible for the dance so I reported this to the Campus Patrol officer assigned to us. HE ASKED THE BOYS TO MOVE ALONG. He didn't even ask to see their ID's. I had quite clearly explained to the officer before the dance how we had never had any trouble at any other dances but with the recent violence we had experienced and this combined with the fact that there was going to be a lot of activity that night. I just hope that the entire department doesn't seem to come out in favor of Campus Patrol but of course I am probably not adding the same weight that my two offensives did that night. I just hope that the entire department doesn't add that way too.

I would like to make a suggestion to the MIT community: if you ever find your civil rights being violated by someone smashing a bottle over your head, call me for help. I don't give a damn if I am popular.

Eric Trefelner '80

Feedback

Campus insensitivity strikes again

Eric Trefelner '80

Paul Hubbard

By Kent C. Massey