

Official
Undergraduate
News Organ
of Technology



A Record of
Continuous
News Service
for 42 Years

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1923

ANSWERING AN INDICTMENT

A COMMITTEE of its peers has found The Tech Senior Board guilty before the Institute Committee of high crimes and misdemeanors. More than a dozen counts were contained in the indictment, chief among which were the charges of publishing a "yellow" sheet, considering scandal good news, and being unable to recognize the facts the student body wants to be told about.

On just two points we humbly beg leave of our judges to speak. First, let us relieve innocent men of blame. The Tech Board is being arraigned as whole in order to effectively get at two of its members. These two, the editor and the managing editor, declare themselves wholly and entirely responsible for the recent policy in the news columns of the paper and hereby absolve their brother members from blame. We have gone into this contest with our eyes open, and only after careful consideration. We back to the limit any statement previously published or contained herein.

The second point involves a difference of opinion but on our side at least is the result of three years of study and work in various positions on the staff of The Tech. We believed that the undergraduates of the Institute want a real newspaper and we have given the best that is in us to publish one for them in these twenty-three issues of Volume XLIII.

Such an arraignment as we received yesterday cannot but convince us that we were wrong. If we are to accept the opinion of the committee Technology does not desire a newspaper but rather an insipid publicity sheet devoted to advertising the various activities. We cannot and will not become parties to the degeneration of a newspaper into a portable bulletin board.

The Tech regrets to announce the resignation of G. C. Reinhardt '24, and R. B. Bamford '24.

A VICTORY FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

THE action of the Institute Committee in referring the election question to a referendum by the Class of 1924 is a generous acknowledgment by the Senior rulers that their successors are entitled to work out their own salvation. It is distinctly a triumph, not a defeat, for student government to find that the referendum, the newest adjunct to democracy, can be utilized by Technology undergraduates in their affairs.

Dissatisfaction was plainly rife in the Junior class. If it was the sentiment of the majority of 1924 men it boded ill for peaceful and successful administration next year. On the other hand if it was but the loud noise of an ambitious minority it did not deserve attention. The submission of the problem to popular vote takes good care of the matter. The will of the majority will either bring an entirely new election or will competently squelch further kicks.

An unusual amount of bickering has so obscured the real issues in a smoke screen of politics that it is impossible to make a prophecy as to the outcome. Under those circumstances it was manifestly impossible for the Institute Committee to wisely decide whether to ratify the results of the balloting or order a new election. To resort to a referendum sets a precedent which is extremely worth while. The strenuous efforts of those who championed its cause so ably in the face of no inconsiderable opposition were well spent.

GOOD WORK, 1923!

BY introducing endowment insurance, the Senior class has set the precedent for a custom which may greatly alter the course of affairs at the Institute. If the Corporation were assured a substantial source of revenue, which class endowments would constitute, the problem of dormitories and office space for the activities would offer fewer difficulties. The present Seniors are starting the custom with one of the largest class endowments ever written, and it is expected that the total amount of insurance taken out will exceed 145,000 dollars before the drive is over.

Much credit is due the Class of 1923 for inaugurating the plan. Its value lies not only in the material aid it gives to Technology, but also in its example of true loyalty to the institution they are leaving. Too often men lose interest in the progress of their school upon graduation, but the endowment insurance provides a method by which they can render appreciable aid as alumni.

The plan of the Senior class shows what possibilities lie in the development by the classes of measures that can be a benefit to Technology for years to come.

The Tech desires to correct an editorial statement of the issue of May 9. The Rogers men were enabled to vote as usual in their own building during the course of the afternoon, and cast one of the heaviest votes of any course.

Are You Ruled By The Stable Boy?

Politics and the Engineer

By G. H. Ludlow '23

"Are you willing to be ruled by the Stable Boy?"

Ask yourself that question honestly and see what your first reaction may be. The chances are that you will say "No, of course not!" with some

heat and indignation, yet, just stop and think for a minute. See if that does not come somewhat near being the case in your home community.

When you first start to think about it, you will say to yourself,

"That question is foolish and idiotic, because I do vote or I will vote for the mayor and aldermen when I get settled in business. They certainly are not stable boys, and it is they who make the local laws that govern me."

Stop and think further! What is the training back of the mayor and aldermen?

I will admit that in most communities the mayor is a pretty decent sort, but I will not admit that the general type of alderman is much more advanced than the stable boy or the butcher's assistant and delivery boy. He may be somewhat older and more crafty in the way of expressing himself in public, and he may know the ropes to pull when he wants a certain measure to be put through the city council so that he can get a bit of graft, but he does not know of the big social and economic principles upon which society is based. He has a rough idea of psychology from watching the way his predecessors have handled people around election time, and he has learned by experience that being a "Good Fellow" and associating with "the masses" with a hand-shake or a cigar here and there helps wonderfully when he wants to be reelected. In your presence, Mr. Young Engineer, he tries to be civil and polite and not to appear too crude because he feels instinctively that you have a better trained mind than he has, and he does not want to offend you so that you will use your mind to defeat his purposes.

When you voted last did you notice the type of men who were in charge of the polls?

Have you ever gone into a city council meeting and seen the way measures are brought up and passed or torn to pieces because they do not suit the purposes and plans of some demagogue who wants special graft for his ward?

Have you tried to get at their basic motives for their actions?

Have you noticed the type of "hangers-on" or "henchmen" who do the bidding of their demagogues?

Go to a meeting some time and see if you do not find your neighborhood stable boy as one of these "heelers." Then go again in about ten years and the chances are that you will find that stable boy with the title of Alderman.

If you do this you will probably say that Democracy is a failure, and that the government of a community is for politicians, and you do not want to get mixed up with politics anyway.

Perhaps Democracy is a failure in the United States at the present time. Have you asked yourself why?

Isn't it because you have failed to realize—or, realizing, have been too lazy to take your part in the government of your community?

It seems to me that an Engineer has three distinct duties. One, to provide and care for his family, another, to use his engineering training for the good of society, and last but not least, to use his mind for the government of his community.

The first two need not be mentioned, because they take care of themselves. The last one is where most men slip. They do not seem to see that their minds are peculiarly trained to help in the ruling and guiding of a community.

Four years at an Engineering School such as Technology teaches a man to sort the good from the bad and to get at basic facts upon which structures may be built. Now, isn't it possible for a man who has been trained to get at the facts and build up plans for future operations from these facts, to use that training in the direction of his town or city? Isn't it possible for such a man to give a bit of his time and thought toward making city government better and therefore make life easier for his fellow townsmen?

It is likely that the builder of a huge bridge will achieve more fame and get more respect than a man who is an ordinary Engineer, but who devotes some of his time to seeing that matters of city government are run more efficiently, but it is doubtful whether the bridge builder will get more satisfaction and genuine pleasure.

Democracy a failure? Do you prefer to have some sort of Monarchy or are you content to take the form of government that our forefathers gave us and make it better by creating a real Democracy in which every one has a hand in the governing?

In every community problems arise that require technical knowledge and skill for their solution. What a wonderful opportunity there is here for the Technology graduate to perform a real service for his community if he is only willing to give some of his time and thought! Such problems as those of roads and pavements, public health and sewage, buildings and finance are handled by Technology men in their scholastic life, and almost daily in their after life, so why not give some of the experience and judgment gained in this manner toward making your city or town a better place in which to live?

If you are unable to direct the work yourself, you can give the benefit of your advice and see to it that your community gets the maximum return for its hard earned dollars.



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INTERCOLLEGIATES

Distinctions Shown

Caps and gowns are by no means the distinguishing feature of seniors on all the college campuses. At Washington and Jefferson, the seniors wear a small white ribbon on their coat lapel. At the University of Tennessee, white sweaters are worn. The graduating class at Illinois wear distinctive hats. At the University of Michigan the seniors promenade about the college swinging the traditional walking stick.

Dean Issues Challenge

A challenge to play any team composed of alumni or faculty members of the University of Cincinnati has been issued by Dean Schneider of the Engineering School. The team captained by Dean Schneider has already started practice and is composed of many former college baseball stars. A cup will be awarded the winning team when the game is played about the middle of June.

G. E. Man Talks to Radios

At a joint meeting of the M. I. T. Radio Society and the Boston CW Club, held in room 5-330 last night, Mr. C. R. Cummings of the General Electric Company gave an illustrated talk on the subject of "Tube Transmission." Mr. Cummings was speaking in the place of W. R. G. Baker, who was unable to be present.

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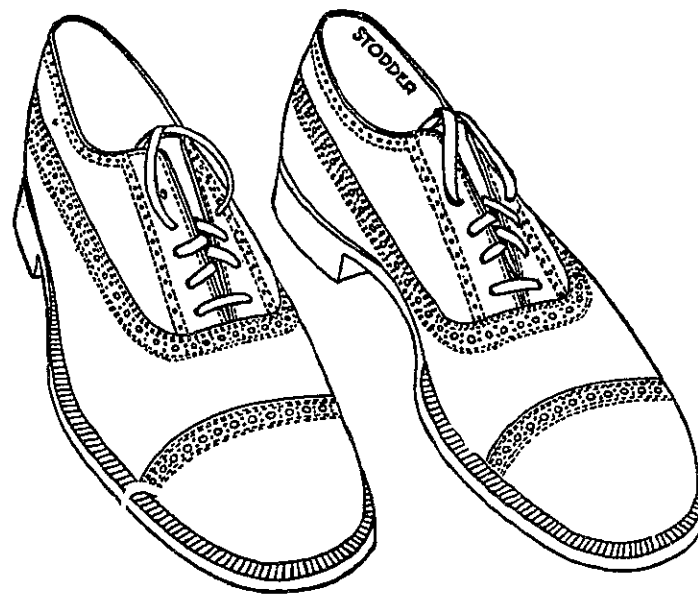
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