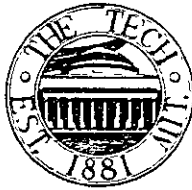


The Tech



MIT and Dr. Huxley

MIT is about to go Huxley-happy; the question is, as his public lectures and class sessions open, in what way. Many of those who swarm to the lectures will be coming just for a peek at the Great Man. But others will be seeking something more.

If they seek a definitive plan to avert the Brave New Worldian nightmare of complete technological control, chances are they won't get one. What they will get from Huxley — what Huxley has always given — will be a key to introspection.

We must ask what we are and what is going on about us. We are part of our generation, a generation which Huxley sees as well on the way to being enslaved by the thought-controllers without knowing it, to being brought to the point at which we no longer care since we are entertained by irrelevancies and pleasures. We tend not to care — really care — who wins the election, who is determining our future, just as long as we eat regularly, have a car, TV, and hi-fi, and get a girl and a good job. We are amused, not shocked, by the thought that advertisers can dictate our tastes to us.

As scientists and engineers, we have been accused by many liberals of being of a fascist mentality. The engineer, they say, is concerned with

getting things done, but he does not consider the consequences of his acts. He subjects himself to superiors and accepts their word as gospel. He works for large organizations controlled by small groups, and is engulfed in the bureaucracy imposed by the network of systems made necessary by the manifold requirements of modern technology. In the system, they claim, he is dehumanized. Hitler kept the young Germans marching to keep them from thinking; institutions like MIT impose an academic load which has the same effect.

At MIT we can see ourselves developing both as members of our generation and as scientists and engineers. As undergraduates we are maturing both socially and academically: the question is *how*? How are we being trained to think — what *Weltanschauung*, what outlook on life are we developing?

Our failure to ask these questions is the basis of the danger. First we must question, we must look closely at ourselves and our environment. We must discern facts and, by reason, choose the relevant ones. We must ask where we are going and if we want to go there; if not, we must do something about it.

We welcome Mr. Huxley, and hope that he will indeed give us a key to introspection.

LETTERS: Soph. Rush

Editor, *The Tech*
Sir:

I was surprised and interested to learn from Friday's *The Tech* that, "There can be no doubt that Rush Week as it now exists is most undesirable." I also read with interest, "We invite your comment." And although I think it rather inconsistent of you to invite comment on a statement about which the Editorial Board of the Newspaper of the Undergraduates of the MIT has decided "there can be no doubt," I do feel compelled to comment.

In arriving at your opinion that all students should "be housed in the dormitory system for the entire duration of the first year," I think you have exaggerated the disadvantages and ignored the considerable advantages of the present system.

You assert that "if houses choose to put up a facade of one sort or another, an incoming freshman has very little chance of penetrating it." I'm afraid I have a little less confidence in the ability of MIT fraternity men to act their way through a five day performance and a little more confidence in the ability of the incoming (and rather intelligent) MIT freshman's ability to see through a false front. I feel freshmen are qualified to decide at the end of Rush Week. Last year only 1½% of all pledges made a mistake serious enough to result in depledging. With Soph. Rush, I suspect the same number of students would still manage to make such a mistake.

You imply that the demands on freshmen during pledging are excessive. Again, I feel you

have exaggerated; fraternity men realize as well as anyone the magnitude of the academic pressure on freshmen, and they have adjusted their pledge training programs accordingly. On the positive side, I feel strongly that the freshman (and I refer to the freshman who would eventually pledge under your system) is far better off in a fraternity than a dorm during his period of adjustment to MIT. Here he will have close contact with a small group of MIT students, including students active in MIT activities, MIT athletics, and plain old Saturday night social activities. Most important of all, he will be with a group of students keenly interested in his well being and prepared to do whatever necessary to improve it. He will be with a group of students interested in scholarship and prepared to help him with it. Contrary to popular belief, he will in most cases have study conditions and quiet hours superior to those of the dorms, where the residents have not committed themselves to any mutual obligation.

Please dear editor, before you again decree those things about which "there can be no doubt" consider the advantages the freshman gets from living in a fraternity and look again at the disadvantages of our Rush system—how serious are they?

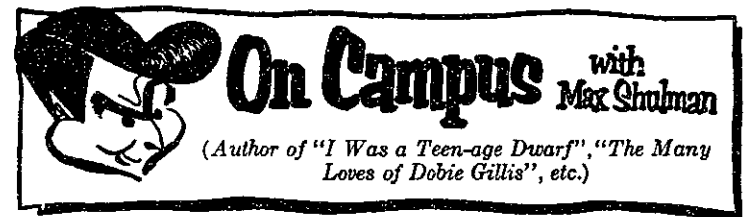
PETER R. GRAY
IFC Chairman.
First of all, we feel that Freshmen, intelligent as they may be, can be fooled. Many, indeed, do not see a five-day performance, but pledge after two or three days. "Fronts", not

complete but still very deceiving, can be put up. The 1½% figure mentioned indicates only depledgings—it cannot be denied that there have been others dissatisfied with their situation, but unwilling to go through depledging to alter it. With Sophomore rushing, each rushee would be able to take a one-year look at the houses in which he was interested; there is no chance of a facade under these conditions.

On the other side of the coin, the remarks concerning the freshman fraternity experience versus that presently obtained in the dorms are most valid, and we freely acknowledge them. It's just that we don't think this outweighs the advantages of Sophomore rushing as outlined in these columns last week. It should, however, be said that with 900 freshmen in the dorms that more could, and doubtless would, be done to provide a better study atmosphere as well as academic help.

A final word: editorials in THE TECH have never been purported to be Absolute Truth, but rather the opinion of the Board of the newspaper. As such they are always open to comment and criticism by others. That is why this letter was printed, and why so many have been printed in the past. When the editorial page of THE TECH both stimulates, and serves as a forum, for debate on issues of campus-wide interest, it is serving its purpose best. So, while remaining unconvinced by Mr. Gray's letter, we do sincerely thank him for it—and continue to invite comment.

—Ed.



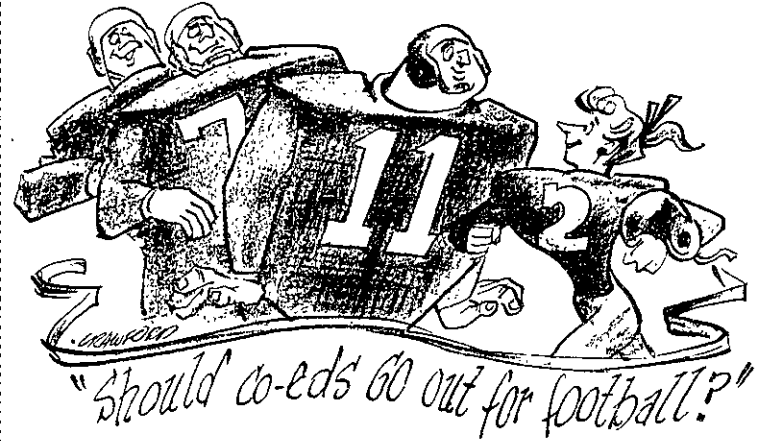
ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH, DEAR FRIENDS

Today, if I am a little misty, who can blame me? For today I begin my seventh year of writing columns for the makers of Marlboro Cigarettes.

Seven years! Can it be possible? It seems only yesterday I walked into the Marlboro offices, my knickers freshly pressed, my cowlick wetted down, my oilcloth pencil box clutched in my tiny hand. "Sirs," I said to the makers of Marlboro—as handsome an aggregation of men as you will find in a month of Sundays, as agreeable as the cigarettes they make—mild yet hearty, robust yet gentle, flip-top yet soft pack—"Sirs," I said to this assemblage of honest tobaccoists, "I have come to write a column for Marlboro Cigarettes in college newspapers across the length and breadth of this great free land of America."

We shook hands then—silently, not trusting ourselves to speak—and one of the makers whipped out a harmonica and we sang sea chanties and bobbed for apples and played "Run, Sheep, Run," and smoked good Marlboro Cigarettes until the campfire had turned to embers.

"What will you write about in your column," asked one of the makers whose name is Trueblood Strongheart.



"About the burning issues that occupy the lively minds of college America," I replied. "About such vital questions as: Should the Student Council have the power to levy taxes? Should proctors be armed? Should coeds go out for football?"

"And will you say a kind word from time to time about Marlboro Cigarettes," asked one of the makers whose name is Honor Bright.

"Why, bless you, sirs," I replied, chuckling silverly, "there is no other kind of word except a *kind* word to say about Marlboro Cigarettes—the filter cigarette with the unfiltered taste—that happy combination of delicious tobacco and exclusive selectrate filter—that loyal companion in fair weather or foul—that joy of the purest ray serene."

There was another round of handshakes then and the makers squeezed my shoulders and I squeezed theirs and then we each squeezed our own. And then I hid me to my typewriter and began the first of seven years of columning for the makers of Marlboro Cigarettes.

And today as I find myself once more at my typewriter, once more ready to begin a new series of columns, perhaps it would be well to explain my writing methods. I use the term "writing methods" advisedly because I am, above all things a methodical writer. I do not wait for the muse; I work every single day of the year, Sundays and holidays included. I set myself a daily quota and I don't let anything prevent me from achieving it. My quota, to be sure, is not terribly difficult to attain (it is, in fact, one word per day) but the important thing is that I do it *every single day*. This may seem to you a grueling schedule but you must remember that some days are relatively easy—for example, the days on which I write "the" or "a". On these days I can usually finish my work by noon and can devote the rest of the day to happy pursuits like bird-walking, monopoly, and smoking Marlboro Cigarettes.

© 1960 Max Shulman

The makers of Marlboro are happy to bring you another year of Max Shulman's free-wheeling, uncensored column—and are also happy to bring Marlboro Cigarettes, and for non-filter smokers—mild, flavorful Philip Morris.

The Tech

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