

MIT announces new humanity requirement

By Heidi Burgiel

The humanities, arts, and social sciences department announced today, after weeks of discussion, a new Humanity requirement. This requirement is designed to ensure that the engineers produced by MIT perform at acceptable levels of humanity in their future careers. The committee declared that an MIT education is invalid without the fulfillment of this requirement, and that no one would be allowed to have a diploma without first meeting this requirement.

Past graduates will receive mail requesting proof of humanity within the next week. If they fail to produce this proof by the start of next term, their diplomas will be repossessed, and they will be required to register for Humanity courses. Deceased graduates will be allowed to keep their diplomas in spite of the fact that they exhibit the greatest lack of humanity seen in any group of MIT graduates. A spokesman for the MIT administration said after the meeting that he expects this to bring in a lot of tuition money (approx. \$550 million), but that some MIT officials, primarily those who graduated from MIT, are concerned about this new

requirement.

The new Humanity course to be offered next term will follow the structure of a high school health class, covering subjects such as "how to treat your girlfriend or boyfriend," and "how to deal with peers and peer pressure." It will also attempt to answer more elementary questions, such as "what is a girlfriend?," "how do I get one?," "what is peer pressure?," "what are peers?," "how do I get them?," and "what is this party business I've been hearing about, anyway?" Faculty should include guest appearances by BU fraternity members, a famous comedian, and a well known game show host, as well as instructors from the MIT Phys. Ed. department and the counseling department. It is hoped that this will rectify the shocking lack of humanity evident in MIT graduates.

This lack of humanity, the HASS department stated, is responsible for the relatively low numbers of MIT graduates in management, social, familial, and entertainment. Schools such as Harvard, Yale, and Airco Tech. have many more graduates in these positions; MIT has a responsibility to its graduates to give them an education equal to that offered by the schools listed above.

Text of President Gray's commencement speech

By Brian Bradley

I would like to congratulate those of you who have successfully completed your Institute Requirements, as well as those of you who are up-to-date on your payments, and those of you who are considering a contribution to our new Endowment Drive.

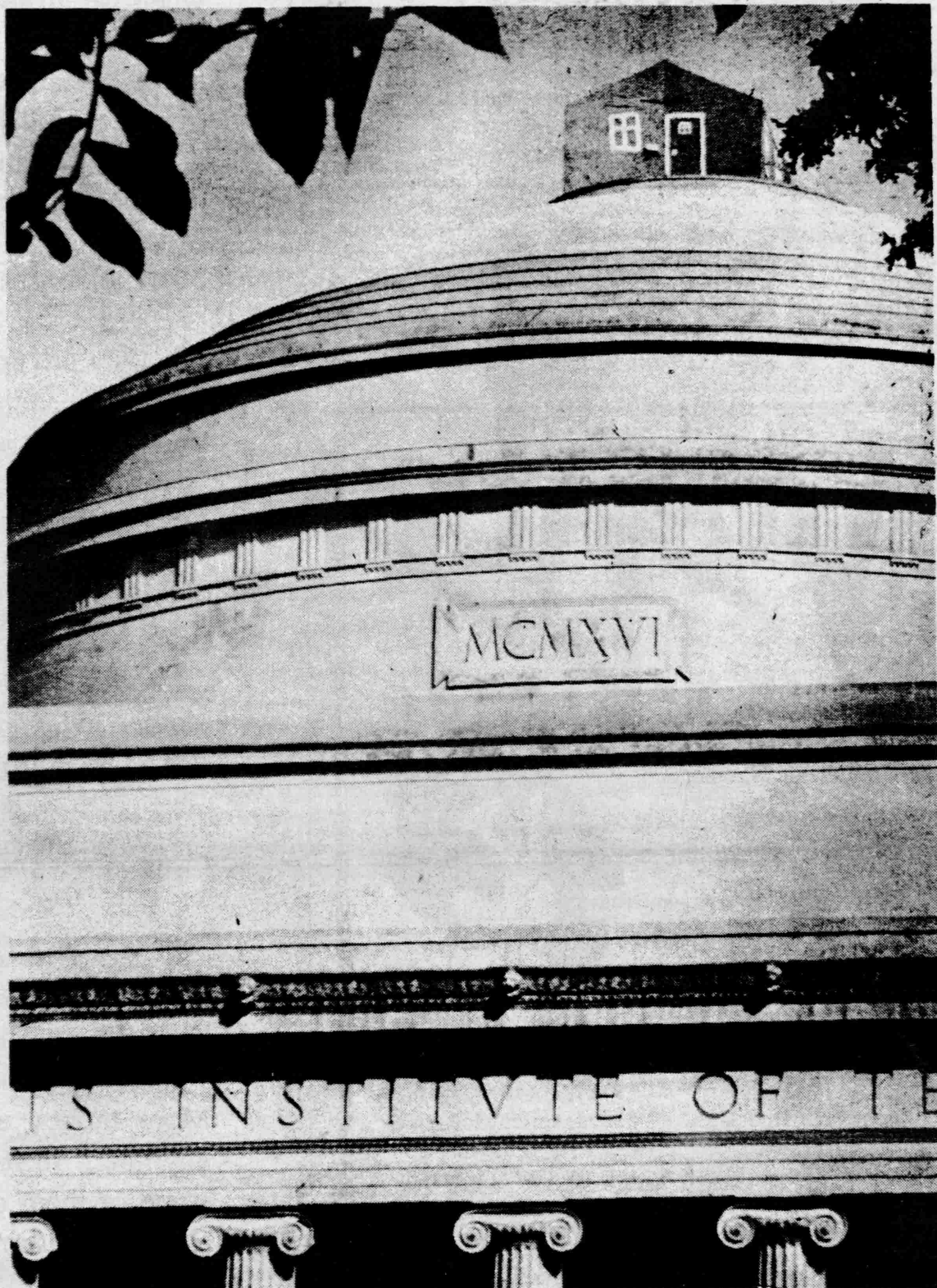
This ceremony is not an end, but a beginning -- and that is why we call it "commencement."

Tomorrow, you will begin a newer, poorer life outside of these historic walls. And, I must remind you, you will immediately "commence" repayment of your student loans.

For the students and parents gathered here, today is both a solemn and a happy occasion. Solemn in that we solemnly remind you that failure to repay your student loans is now a federal offense; and happy in that the Alumni Association knows exactly where to find you if you don't.

Finally, a personal note: Your dorm rooms must be empty of personal possessions by noon or you will forfeit your cash deposit. All library books must be returned or you will not receive your diploma. And most importantly: any motor vehicle parked on Institute property has been ticketed and towed.

Good luck in your new lives!



The new MIT building 69; story on page 2.

inside

New Howard Johnson's Restaurant on Campus

Interview with Paul Gray's Astrologer

Explosion in Reactor Building

2,000 degrees at commencement - Fire marshals worried

Cambridge Fire Department officials have expressed "serious concern" about the lack of safety precautions at M.I.T.'s upcoming Commencement ceremony. "Two thousand degrees! That's as hot as the surface of the sun!" Fire Chief Oliveri said to reporters

yesterday. In response, the M.I.T. Safety Department has issued the following guidelines:

- All participants must wear special protective black robes and flat-topped hats.
- The ceremony will be held next to the Charles River

with its abundant supply of water.

- A special platform will be constructed to direct most of the heat upwards rather than outwards.

- Graduates will stand as far away from the campus nuclear reactor as possible.

opinion

Donation helps make well-rounded students

By Anthony Schinella

MIT has recently announced that it has received an undisclosed sum of money from an anonymous source for the construction of the new Señor Noriega Chemical Engineering Building, building 69.

Along with the construction of this building comes the new Institute Humming Requirement, to be implemented in three phases:

Phase 1: All students must

be able to close their mouths and make a noise. Farting does not count.

Phase 2: All students must be able to hum a simple tune, like the well-known MIT Alma Mater.

Phase 3: All students must be able to hum a well-known symphony by a major composer, in stereo and with correct instrumentation and scoring.

This proposal will go into effect with this year's graduating class, so start practicing now.

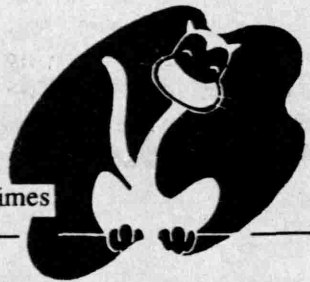
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Graduation Special

Published every term sometimes



Staff

David Abrams
Larry Appleman
Brian Bradley
James F. Bredt
James H. Bredt
Heidi Burgiel
Chris Coon

Bob DiVivo
William P. Elmer
Charles Hong
Andrew MacDonald
Jennifer McKenney
Ralph Santos
Anthony Schinella

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TOOL & DIE

Letter from the Editor

Yes, we once again reach Graduation, that time when we all look back and reflect on what we have done and what we have accomplished. And why we did it to start with. I mean, why go through all this trouble? Why stay up late at night poring over schoolbooks and doing problem sets? Why not just hit yourself with a hammer and flog yourself a lot instead? Why go through all this effort just to do badly in classes?

Why get up in the morning, anyhow, to face this cruel, sick, depraved world we all live in? Why does rain fall from above? Why is this person asking all these questions, anyhow? "Why?," we all wonder -- and rightly so, for it is the Scientific Method.

Most of all, though, we all wonder *why* in the hell we spent enough money to put a new Space Shuttle into orbit just so we could wear some funny clothes today and get a big sheet of paper saying we did all this stuff.

Well, the answer is simple, graduates of MIT:

“\$\$\$”

The reason, as any alumni will tell you, is because you can now wear a ludicrous-looking square ring and make absurd amounts of money. More money than anybody should be paid to do anything. In fact, alumni make *so* much money that some of them even donate money to this magazine. Which says something.¹

In short, the reason you did all that ridiculous Faustian soul-selling is so that you can now make large sums of money for the remainder of your career, secure in the knowledge that your school mascot is a large rodent.

All of which is good, since you now owe the government more money than entire nation of Brazil.

-Anthony Schinella

¹That's Voo Doo's Tool and Die, MIT Room 50-309, Cambridge, MA 02139

Graduation contingency plans

Do the following in case of:

Rain: Go underground. Commencement will instead be held in the basement beneath the Infinite Corridor.

Terrorist Hijacking: Stand up, hold your hands way over your head, make no sudden moves, and say very clearly "I am not an American."

Nuclear Attack: If you are

wearing a graduation gown or suit, take them off -- the dark color will absorb heat, which you want to prevent.

Dull Commencement Speaker: Flee in terror.

news roundup

New distribution proposals to go into effect

By Anthony Schinella

Beginning this Fall 1988, the new MIT HASS-D (Humanities and Social Sciences) requirements, part of the MIT TDMAP (Too Damn Many Acronyms Plan) will be instituted. Under the new system, all worldly knowledge is divided into five categories. After heated debate, it was decided that students would pick one from Column A, one from Column B, and one appetizer.

After examining systems at a number of other colleges, the decision was made to base the proposal on the popular board game, "Trivial Pursuit." The categories into which the new Humanities Subjects will be as follows:

Famous Dead People: Including "Caesar," "Napoleon," "Roosevelt," and "Paul Grey."

Things Nobody Reads: Including "The Original Homer for People Who Can't Read Greek," and "Poetry Without Vowels."

Languages You Will Never Use: Including "Eskimo IV," "Sumerian for Travellers,"

"Proto-Malaysian," and "Alpha Centauri B."

Identifying "Art": Including "It's Art Even if It's Ugly," "Transparent Horizons was *Intentional*," and "Art at MIT: How to Avoid It."

Things You Have to Take: Including "Everything Else You Don't Like."

Dean for Perplexing Institute Requirements A. T. Hun, says "Students must take eight classes total in the departments of Humanities, Political Science, Science Technology and Society, or Linguistics and Philosophy. Of these eight, four must be in one field, while three of the eight must be in three of the five different categories, except that one of the three can be one of the four. Also, given the propensity of our students for generating excessively verbose, obfuscatory written literature, we are currently implementing a supplementary Institute Clarity Requirement.

"Actually, this is just an interim step before our complete humanities program goes into effect, where all graduates must appear as contestants on a stupid quiz game show."

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS: THE GREAT SAIL

Part 83,579 in our continuing series of quasicentennial facts.

...If you grew up during the '60s, you'll probably remember the popular book, "A Child's Letters to the Great Sail," now inexplicably out of print.

...Hundreds of years ago, when the north bank of the Charles river was a Native American burial ground, the area was covered with many hundreds of sails, each a different size, scattered throughout the region. Why or how they were built is a mystery today, and only two sails remain.

...President Stratton's daily stroll from his house to the main campus was often marred by the powerful New England gusts that tore off his top hat. Meteorologists determined that the problem could be solved by turning the Great Sail 30 degrees to the south. However, it was impossible to move the Sail, and so the campus itself (much smaller then, of course) was rotated into the correct position.

...After the Great Sail was heavily damaged during World War II, a perfect copy was constructed in the original location. The older, Great Sail -- injured beyond repair -- was moved to the East Campus courtyard, where it is often mistaken for a Louise Nevelson sculpture.

by Brian Bradley and Larry Appleman

Community awareness can prevent theft

By Anthony Schinella

"Recent thefts of computer equipment could have been prevented by aware citizens," says a spokesman from the MIT Campus Police. In the most recent theft, ten students reportedly stood by a broken printer, waiting for it to produce their papers, while three Athena workstations were removed from the terminal room. "I thought they were repairmen," said one of the students, when questioned.

If just one of these students had reported the event, the theft might have been prevented. Further thefts can be stopped by aware, informed members of the MIT community. This means you; report any out-of-the-ordinary events, such as equipment being removed from Athena clusters, non-MIT staff members with monitors or other computer equipment concealed on their person, suspicious mouse tracks, or Athena repairmen.

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Weather

Enjoy it while it lasts

Elimination of course XX prompts questions

By Anthony Schinella

The recent elimination of the Department of Applied Biology, Course 20, has been followed by the release of a new Institute plan for continuing this trend.

"It's really just a budget-saving proposal," says Dean for Academic Impedance E. Scrooge. "We plan to combine more superfluous departments with similar, larger ones in order to cut down on the number of necessary faculty and administrators. For instance, we now have the Department of Biology and Applied Biology."

In a similar vein, Course 10, Chemical Engineering, is to be combined with Course 5, to form the integrated Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

The next candidate for absorption is Course 24, Linguistics and Philosophy. Course 24 is earmarked to be combined with Course 21, Humanities, to form the new Department of Linguistics,

Philosophy, and Humanities.

Comments Scrooge, "There aren't any people in those departments, anyhow. Who do you know from Course 24?"

After this, Course 4, the Department of Architecture, and Course 11, the Department of No Undergrads Anyhow, will be combined to become the Department of People Who Build Models of Houses and Things.

Comments Scrooge, "It's great! Think how many faculty we can fire each time!"

"We intend to eliminate on department each year, by grouping them together by obvious overlap. For instance, in a couple of years, we'll have the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, Mathematical, Planetary, Materials, Chemical and Applied Chemical Sciences. See how much redundancy we've eliminated right there?"

The ultimate goal of the program, he says, is to generate Course 0, the Department of Everything.

sports



MIT's coach demonstrates the new winning "method"

MIT pistol defeats Yale fencing

By Anthony Schinella

Defeating the notion that MIT students are athletically hopeless nerds, the MIT pistol team soundly defeated the Yale fencing team without losing a single team member of their own. At fifty paces, MIT won hands-down in all three of the competing categories: the lightweight .22 versus foil, 9 mm. handgun versus epee, and in the most closely contested category, .44 auto-magnum versus saber.

Says the MIT team captain, "Well, we were just using our well-known technical advantage and ingenuity. We looked over the history and realized that sword fighting has been obsolete for centuries, since the invention

of gunpowder. Instead of brute, athletic prowess, we used superior firepower to win the day." The Yale coach supposedly expressed "surprise" at competing with a pistol team, but was unable to answer questions when reached.

This unique new approach, dubbed "technuke", is purportedly winning many supporters among the other MIT athletic teams, but official sources have denied that this is the case. Says MIT's Director of Athletics, who wished to remain anonymous, "The MIT crew team is in no way investigating ways of mining the Charles River. We deplore such unsportsmanlike behavior, and such means would interfere with our secret plans to torpedo those damned Harvard crewshells."

ARTS

Arts Review: "The Graduates" should be skipped

By Andy MacDonald

Once again this year, the senior class of M.I.T. along with the G.S.C. and various faculty members will perform the inane play "The Graduates." This year's performance promises to be almost exactly the same as last year's, or indeed, the same as all 100-plus performances given in the history of the school. If you've seen it before, skip it.

The cast consists almost entirely of rank amateurs, very few having ever performed in "The Graduates" previously, and most having no acting experience at all.

The story line is dull. First there are two or three lengthy soliloquies, one inevitably given by President Grey. Another will be presented by American League Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamanti -- how he ever passed the audition is beyond me. The second and final act

consists of a long procession of cast members while their names are read like credits. What egoism! Give me a break.

This play was originally performed during the Middle Ages, which accounts for the silly costumes the performers wear. Whatever social relevance the play had eight hundred years ago is lost on today's audience. The sheer hugeness of the cast prevents us from identifying with any of the characters. If they wanted spectacle, they should have performed "Cleopatra."

The timing of the performance is also bad. Can't these people get it that no one is going to come if the play is performed a week after finals end? The performers are reduced to recruiting parents and relatives to come to watch them.

Take my advice, folks. Skip "The Graduates." Go see the Red Sox game. It at least has a surprise ending.

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS: THE MAIN CAMPUS

Part 3.14158 in our continuing series of quasicentennial facts.

...The automatic door at M.I.T.'s main entrance was the first in the United States, but it is not electrical, like modern automatic doors. Rather, the door is operated by trained guinea pigs. Animal rights activists have tried in vain to end this oppression.

...In the four corners of the Building 7 Lobby are empty pedestals, which are all that remain of large busts commemorating the greatest scientists and engineers of the 18th and 19th centuries. The busts were removed, and all records of them expunged, during the Scientific Method riots of the '40s.

...Names of M.I.T. men and women who died in battle are engraved in the walls of the Building 10 lobby; the blank wall, naturally, is reserved for those who serve in World War III.

...The "Green Building" is neither green, nor is it a building.

...Superstitious scientists? None of the main campus buildings constructed before 1950 have a 13th floor. Indeed, the cautious designers didn't even build 12th or 11th floors.

...Inside the top of the Building 7 dome are four-foot-thick solid blocks of glass under tremendous pressure. If they weren't there, the dome would collapse inward, as happened to the Building 8 dome in 1937.

by Larry Appleman and Brian Bradley

*The best part of
an M.I.T. education...*

IS WHEN IT'S OVER.