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Technology Review, November 1961

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Technology Review Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

Volume 64, Number 1 Edited at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology November, 1961 [[box]] Feedback [[/box]]

The Most Wanted Class?

FROM JOSEPH S. KAMING, JR., '56

Our National attention is constantly being directed to a shortage of engineers and scientists. Insight into this problen can be gained by reviewing the experiences of the M.I.T. Class of 1956. The class was heralded upon graduation by a feature article in Life magazine, "A Quest For Quality In Scientists" (May 7,1956), and patronized by a then existing economic boom and imagined American technological superiority. To pre-graduation interviewers, this was the nation's " most wanted" class. Now unfortunately the class members, generally, find themselves wanting of opportunity to use their education. The occupational demands upon them are far less than talent consuming.

The fifth reunion of the '56 class held this June, disclosed something other than buoyant optimism. Under-utilization of talent, combined with combined unpredictable defense industry layoffs and a personalized awareness that the politics of business control the quality of engineering, evokes from the graduates, an unglamorized evaluation of their profession.

The class members are not dissatisfied with their M.I.T. education. In retrospect, the education--expansion of thought from the infusion of new ideas, development of technical skills and knowledge, the discipline of persistence and intense concentration, exposure to a certain portion of inspiring faculty members, and acquaintance with an exceptionally select student boy--is characterized as excellent by the majority of the '56ers. They would send their children to M.I.T.--Tech, money and children willing.

What the Tech men are disappointed about is the lack of opportunity to use their education. Engineering and science do sift the unknown, extracting its fascinations: however, the vast majority of technical positions are decidedly ancillary to the (Continued on page 66)

[[image]]

IN FINE FORM after a summer spent taking photos below the sea Professor Harold E. Edgerton, '27, as-addressed the Class of 1965 this fall. Here you see him showing one of his many examples of high-speed photography. To see the freshman, please turn to pages 19 and 24.

Editor: Volta Torrey; BUSINESS MANAGER: R.T.Jope, '28; CIRCULATION MANAGER: D.P.Severance, '38; EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES: J.J. Rowlands, Francis E. Wylie, John I. Mattill; EDITORIAL STAFF: Ruth King, Joan B. Brassert, Roberta A. Clark; BUSINESS STAFF: Madeline R. McCormick, Patricia A. Fletcher; PUBLISHER: H.E. Lobdell, '17.

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Feedback

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