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MANAGING BOARD

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For a Student Union

What with the Institute’s available financial resources tied up elsewhere, and with the rather limited means at the disposal of the Baylor-Mortenson Foundation which brought the matter up, the proposal of erecting a Student Union on the West Campus has not received all the attention it deserves.

The program which the instigators of the move have in mind is indeed a formidable one. The actual list of types of spaces which are to comprise the Student Union building is in fact short: meeting rooms, study rooms, classrooms, facilities for expansion, and recreation space. However if we consider how many meeting rooms would be necessary, how many activities would be entitled to office space, how many reading rooms would have to be provided, and how large a recreation area would be essential, it is obvious that we will finish with quite a sizable building. An obstacle would be that of making the land available. The friends of the group, who own the Institute, is at present covered by the business block opposite the principal entrance to M.I.T. The cost of the project at present estimates would reach $3,000,000. Even were a sum that large raised, there would still be the problem of procuring building materials for what would be, from the Government’s standpoint, non-essential construction. Opposition may arise from those who contend that since we have Walker Memorial, we don’t need a second building. Others may point to the fact that having meeting rooms for activities and student committees alike is a helpful use of space, since today many Institute rooms are serving the double function of classrooms during the day and meeting rooms at night.

In a recent editorial we drew attention to the Institute’s growth in size and population and to the fact that this substantial growth has had an academic and non-academic life of the student: and to the fact that the modification of the student’s environment has not always kept pace with his growth.

One of the first to bring up the proposal in concrete terms was a committee already outlined, a drug-store and barbershop as an alternative facilities for expansion could contain, apart from those rooms which I have lost over the pre-Field Day controversy. I am greatly concerned by the current status of Field Day and the Sibghamore Freshmen rivalry. I think that it is now time that a freshman voice be raised.

As a self-appointed arch-enemy of hazing. I have also taken an active part of being on behalf of the freshmen of the following calibers, conducting rules and so forth. Yet, despite the study time which I have lost over the previous Field Day period, given the chance to do it over, I would assign even more of my life to class rivalry.

Due to class rivalry, many freshmen, including myself, have been drawn out of their shells. It was a result of a dorm raid in which several freshmen were tossed face down into the showers that I was literally and sincerely interested about the freshmen rivalry. I need not add, friendships developed rapidly after that. As a result, East Campus and West Campus freshmen received more pleasant place for many freshmen that had previously kept to themselves a chance to take part in the rivalry and to live.

Another argument against class rivalry has been that it created bad feeling between freshmen and sophomore during the remainder of the M.I.T. careers. I need not point only that many of the very best friends I made during my M.I.T. were those who were nearest active in hazing me.

The argument which I fear will carry the most weight in convincing the current elders of the future of Field Day is that too much damage is done during the rivalry. From what I have seen, I can say that thirty-five per cent of the damage is done by one percent of those taking part. Those other individuals could not be, as a means of allowing those who had drawn out of their shells into the showers that I was literally and sincerely interested about the freshmen rivalry. I need not add, friendships developed rapidly after that. As a result, East Campus and West Campus freshmen received more pleasant place for many freshmen that had previously kept to themselves a chance to take part in the rivalry and to live.

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