Committees And Confusion

Student government cannot function satisfactorily without the interest and respect of the undergraduate body. In its present form, it cannot command that respect or attract that interest.

An extremely disconnected group of committees, theoretically connected by a labyrinthine organization chart, student government at the Institute is to the vast majority almost incomprehensible. Its recent elections for subcommittees and other eventual positions served as fitting testimony that there are not enough informed, interested, and experienced people to fill these supposedly essential posts.

The procedure is more difficult. It must begin with a refurbishment. What problems most student government solves are not those that concern a majority of its joint student administration policy must it voice an opinion on. Painfully, the answers to these questions are known. How can those ends be served? Apparently, the answer to this question is not known.

To further its own interest, student government must paradoxically form a committee to study the elimination of committees--it must take steps to streamline itself.

The Court of Chancery

Activities Council--in its present form unwieldy and unprofitable--is no longer a court for the exchange of information, the discussion of ideas and the fostering of cooperation among the various activities.

Actually, last year it undertook a long and largely inconclusive investigation of the Tech Engineering News, made some changes in its structure which, although an improvement, are of little value; and held a "Leadership Conference." On the strength of its performance in its two years of existence, Activities Council has been a waste of time.

The President of Activities Council sits on Institute Committees and represents all students in all activities on all issues. Actually, the activities have little interest in much of the business transacted by Institute Committees. Student opinions and interests of students in activities are so varied that opinions on individual issues have to be extracted, purporting to represent all of them, cast votes in their behalf.

Presumably, Activities Council is a center for the exchange of information, development of ideas, and promotion of cooperation between the various activities. Actually, there is little need for and little value in the exchange of ideas between such diverse groups as the Nautical Association and the Combined Music Clubs. There are few common ideas that are important enough to develop. The need for cooperation between some of the activities can be filled satisfactorily outside of the Council.

In answer, the Activities Council has proved of little, if any, value. In theory, it is useless.

A Streamlined System

The needs which prompted the formation of the Activities Council can best be served by a new system. There are common problems between similar activities. Activities Council attempts to help them. Groups of similar activities: publications, social organizations, professional societies--have some common problems, and some disputes. There should be a new system, not by a committee of all the groups, but by individual groups: a publications council, a liaison committee of professional societies or of social organizations, and so on.

If there is need of an individual to present the position of the activities on particular issues, there should be an activities coordinator--he might be the Undergraduate Association President. This person on impeding issues could discuss the matter in question with the various groups involved, meeting with involved groups only if they or he feel it necessary. In the event disputes involving dissimilar activities crop up, he could act as arbitrator.

The unnecessary number of activities is not only caused by the diverse nature of the Activities Council, the meaningless voting representative now provided and the list of respect which the interest which would result from an Activities Council would be eliminated. The road would be clear for better activity relations and more streamlined student government.

Blind Faith

The Ambler Student, summarizing recent faculty opinion, states that "the next ten years will show that the fraternity system is truly an integral part of America's liberal education traditions." A latter part of the last year's anti-fraternity defeat is affirmed in the fraternities as an integral and valuable part of the Institute community. A little over a decade ago the anti-fraternity system and made changes. Since then, it has been consistently on the lookout for improvement.

Fraternities at the Institute have been generally ignored. True, the glaring faults, restrictive clauses and initiation procedures, have been largely corrected; but the place of the fraternity in the Institute educational system has been ignored. No evaluation has been made; no attention has been paid.

Apparently the difference between liberal and technical education is bigger than we had thought.

The music box

So that you can plan your musical calendar ahead, The Tech is presenting a discussion of the outstanding concerts that will be held in Symphony Hall during the next month.

This evening Mr. Gieseking will present a varied recital which should prove of interest to everyone. Mr. Gieseking, one of the leading and best known pianists of the present generation, has received international acclaim and anyone hearing him is immediately impressed by his dedication and his talent.

This evening at Symphony Hall will be a memorable one to all those that attend. The open rehearsals for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which are held on Thursday nights, provide an inspirational way to hear this great orchestra. In addition you get the experience of watching a famous conductor rehearse--a rare treat. It is the only advantage that the seats are all unreserved. The Boston Symphony will continue with its regular Friday afternoon, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon concerts. On Tuesday, when the Boston Pops Orchestra again under the baton of Arthur Fiedler, will present nightly concerts through the 34th of June except for the 10th, the 17th, and the 24th of June. The upperclassmen who know about these concerts won't want to miss them completely and the freshmen and other students new to Boston have a real treat in store. The seats are all reserved through the orchestra and Symphony Hall and are replaced with tables and chairs. Though, you may choose to go on the hay (or coke) and sandwiches served throughout the program. If you are picking penants, you can sit in the balcony at the unreserved seats.

And if you plan to attend summer school you can spend those hot, humid, restless evenings lying on the grass of the Esplanade listening to the "Pops." Proper Bostonians reading this the next morning were those hot, humid, restless evenings lying on the grass of the Esplanade listening to the "Pops." Proper Bostonians reading this the next morning were

Who will help Gabriella?

Gabriella is six, the oldest of 11 children. She never slept in a bed; she had a free meal a day. She has no place to call home. She is without clothing, shelter, food, education and medical care.

They are all children, but I cannot help the children. They have no help and no place to call home. Their hearts were trampled on, but I cannot help them.

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Will You, Your School, Your Class, Your Club or Group Accept a Distressed Child Like Gabriella for One Year?

If you have, or are member of a group, can help these children by lending one of your own to Gabriella. You will be sent a copy of the same document and "Yours to Keep" will be in your hands in a few weeks. The child you help will be your responsibility.

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