SCEP investigating frosh meetings

SCEP is attempting to arrange meetings between freshmen and their lecturers, reported Dick Stein, SCEP chairman, at the Inscomm meeting Thursday. This is one of several projects now under investigation by the committee.

These meetings, reported Stein, will "help freshmen lecturers find out what material is not getting across properly" and will enable the lecturers to determine the preparedness of the freshmen. It will also allow the freshmen to present thoughtful criticism. SCEP (Student Committee on Educational Policy) hopes to have some experimental plan in effect this term.

SCEP is also trying to arrange more frequent meetings between freshmen and their advisors.

Extended intersession?

Also under consideration by SCEP is an extended intersession. The purpose of this would be to provide more free time for individual projects. Smith College tried this type of extended intersession this year. "There were some on-the-spot investigations at Smith," reported Stein. "The purpose of this would be to provide more free and follow them up by personal interviews."

They intend to send out questionnaires to students and will enable the lecturers to determine the preparedness of the freshmen. It will also allow the freshmen to present their work to their professors. Smith College tried this type of project now under investigation by the committee.

SCEP is also participating in two faculty studies. One, headed by Dean Kenneth R. Wadleigh, is studying student environment; the other, headed by Prof. Jerrold R. Zacharias, is considering the core curriculum of the first two years. "SCEP feels that it ought to take part in this," said Stein. He felt that his group could provide additional factual information. They intend to send out questionnaires and follow them up by personal interviews.

Merrill is first in poetry series

"Although it is good for the MIT community to hear such noted poets as T. S. Eliot give readings to large audiences in Kreeg, there is a serious need for some form of interchange between the poet and the audience." In this manner, Professors Theodore Wood, Jr., of the Humanities Department, summed up the reasons for the department's planned series of intimate evenings with poets.

The first of these evenings was held last Tuesday, when James Merrill, a young poet recognized for his novel "Scaglio," an off-Broadway play, and several short stories, read some of his works to and talked with a small audience in the Hayden Library Lounge. After he finished reading, there was a short question and answer period in which the audience discussed Mr. Merrill's works with him.

The type of works which Mr. Merrill read varied widely—from a short poem about a midnight visit to the refrigerator to several more serious pieces whose meanings are not able to be conveyed in one or two short sentences. A large number of the poems are not in print yet, but will appear in a new volume of verse which is to be published soon.

During the question period, Mr. Merrill revealed more of the technical details of writing, such as the fact that "I take me three days, at a minimum, to write a poem. Sometimes, it takes years." When asked how soon after he gets the inspiration for a poem does he write it down, he replied "There is normally a lag of about five to ten years."

Prize essay on reading to win $150 scholarship

The Reading Dynamics Institute of Boston (see editorial, page 14) has initiated a Scholarship Program providing tuition (150) and textual material. Normally only one scholarship is awarded per college; essays are to be entered by March 25, 1962 on the "advantages inherent in learning to read more rapidly and efficiently."

James Merrill at poetry reading

"Simon a discussion period allowing the student to understand both the work and the author better," stated Professor Wood. "Thus, they are able to appreciate the beauty and content of the poem more thoroughly."

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Paul Desmond with Strings. "Between the Big 'Uns" (see illustration) the haunting saxophone of Paul Desmond, winner of the "Playboy Jazz Award," is joined by other strings, woodwinds, harp and rhythm sections. Includes title theme, 8 more.