The Alma Mater - a challenge

The Latin 'alma mater' can be literally translated as 'nourishing mother,' an interesting metaphor. The fact that colleges nourish the intellectual life is obvious, but the influence of a 'community' is less obvious. One way described college as a vacation between mother and son. According to the joke, the fact that a gap exists between dependence as a member of a family and independence as an adult is a common feeling for many college students.

Loneliness

Dr. Benson Snyder, MIT Chief of Psychiatry, told a California audience that MIT students are generally the most effective in the business world. The subject's personal character are developed well, not the whole community, not just faculty and students, but the MIT community. MIT have been given so much freedom that the well-laid Constitution is a common feeling for many college students.

Responsibility

This, we wager, is why students at MIT have been given so much responsibility to manage affairs beneficial to the community. There is recognition here of one virtue and its development perhaps be utilized other than the obvious. This responsibility necessitates hard thinking—what is the best for the community? How can one be admitted to community? What is the role of student government? Of living groups?

A vital problem

We have already stated negatively that, in our view, there is no path to individual ethics, morality, and character not found in mass movements. This is not to say that moral training is unimportant; let us cultivate our gardens. Our own yard has enough work to be done. Call said. Loneliness, whether searching for goals—the semantics are unimportant, but the problem is there, more immediate to most students than national issues—and equally capable of being solved, as student suicide statistics will show.

Leadership

Colleges want to do more than provide a warm and fuzzy college environment. They want to draw people out, stand on their own feet, prepare them for a leadership in which they would sorely in need of responsible leaders.

We have already commented on the 'amateur' status of student govern- ment, and activities, and government, that we feel that amateur training is the best education for the group. The present day faces itself is the task of making this whole education effective for everybody, not just the administrators.

Student action

The new Inscomm has already attacked this problem. Minutes and agendas of meetings are available to anyone interested may attend. The new Student Center Committee (called, in his refreshingly frank style, for people on his committee who are interested in helping the 'Tech-tool' enjoy the new building.

The burden does not rest solely with the student government, leaders, who can do little by themselves. We have received letters concerned with national problems; we would rather submit a discussion of the uses of the Student Center, or of the Social Service Committee. What can the students do? We feel we have the facilities to attract non-residents, or form-residents, or trans-Charles fraternity.

In the weeks to come we will discuss more about student pressure, college costs, and the educative role of activities, from Nite of Rebelry to Carnivale. It is forward to hearing the readers' views on the subject.

The Tech

24. A noted American once said of his countrymen, "So many money boys, the South will rise again!" All of us from below the Mason-Dixon line, ably truth to be heard and self-evident. But we must admit that we never expected the first signs of our long cherished revival would occur in the Yen- kee stronghold of Cambridge, Mass.

A close look at the executive committee of the Inscomm shows, however, that the well-crafted Federate plans to solve all the problems of the MIT student government have run aground. The excomm is made up of Bill Byrn, UAP, of Newport, Virginia; Vincente C. Gil, Finance Board Chairman, of Memphis, Tennessee; Joel S. Tiel- ley, Secretary, of Houston, Texas; Rusty Epps, Activities Council Chairman, of Columbus, Georgia; and John Adger, Student Center Committee Chairman, of Baton Rouge.

It is rumored that one of the first official acts of the new board will be to change the traditional refreshments at Inscomm meetings, from cider and doughnuts to mint drinks and cakes.

15. Speaking of southern Reconstruction actions we've heard of, we would like to add our request to the administration that APO be forced to take down the Confederate Flag in their Carni- val booth in the lobby of Building 10. Although the theme of civil war is the subject of the festivities, this presumably sane person apparently forgets that the Confederate flag is an insult to the civil rights movement.

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We can't help thinking that such an action would be looked upon by many people in the MIT commu- nity as being their time to work constructively on the problem of the South.

If the South is rising, the Institute isn't exactly lying down. The new board scheduled to be sworn in at Carnival and spring summer includes: M. William Dix '67, Associate Treasurer; Stephen Taylor, Business Manager; Kenneth Browning, Assistant Treasurer; and Louise Lentin '68, Assistant News Editor.

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Pro contra

I write to protest the naive, animal, insubordination of students; I write to protest the naivety of the last two issues.

On March 17th you said, in commenting on "Involvement in Student Government" that "the civil rights demonstrations, however, has called such a movement "should be dedicated to the needs of democracy."

Call it loneliness, need for identity, it was precisely because "toler- ance is found in mass movements. This is crusades which can only divide groups?"

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