Philosophy of the Student Center: Present

Leaving the Building 7 exit, one sees the outside of the main entrance to the building. Strategical measures to improve our image, to increase our enrollment, and to strengthen students' perspective are imperative.

In the undergraduate program, the awareness possessed by the individual is usually limited; his ambitions are great, and possibly superficial, and his interests lack clear definition. Much more than just professional growth is needed, and unless opportunities in the other realms are also available and can be explored by each student, he experiences a sense of unfulfillment without understanding its cause. This issue can pervade his entire school and personal experience.

Professor Frederick J. McCann, past chairman of the Faculty Committee on Student Environment, has voiced a philosophy of education which was peculiarly apt to the concept of a student center. He said, in part:

"We need, literally, a 'university polarized around science'-but one in which dedication to all the classical areas of intellectual growth is evident, and in which the undergraduate can witness and experience the heterogeneity of human expression so essential to his own development."

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"At the Institute, the resources and activities representing the non-academic pursuits of life build a sense of an atmosphere and dissociation of faiths has followed the building of the Student Center. We need, literally, a 'university polarized around science'-but one in which dedication to all the classical areas of intellectual growth is evident, and in which the undergraduate can witness and experience the heterogeneity of human expression so essential to his own development..."

The Center will have great potential for informal facility and contact, and certain facilities, including good restaurant service, will be at the disposal of the entire Institute community. These will include a shopping area which will bring the conveniences of modern student life, after years of having to cope with little more than hard-earned cash and illustrated-coffee accompaniments.

The Center's main function will be to stimulate and deepen extracurricular undergraduate interests. Specific experiences for the undergraduate are essential to the Institute's overall effectiveness in achieving this purpose. Walker Memorial, originally built as a student center, no longer meets the demands made on it by the Institute's growth. Thompson Memorial and Baker House, in the last 40 years and the large increase in resident students, Walker Memorial, originally built as a student center, no longer meets the demands made on it by the Institute's growth. Thompson Memorial and Baker House.

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Increased activity of the Musical Society of a village in the M.I.T. doorways, after years of having to cope with little more than hard-earned cash and illustrated-coffee accompaniments.

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"This is a school where there are 75 couples can be held; the Student Center will permit several hundred students to gather and have fun, to dance and to laugh," says one faculty adviser. "Yet those things are an important part of any young man's development in the search for his own place in this general scheme of living. Too often we make a mistake of play."