Yoo Doo monthly stunt offers grounded gondola; Staff members wind up all wet in the Charles

By Tom Roman

Yoo Doo attempted to display the Great Modern Society of the United States, but instead wound up re-creating what looked like a lynching scene from the good old days of the wild west.

Dave Ellis '66, publicity manager of Yoo Doo, began to explain the monthly stunt. Around the Yoo Doo sales desk in Building 10 were several posters and a makeshift gondola on the floor. Since the gondola was a picture of President Johnson with the caption: "Miss America, anyone here in five minutes without Yoo Doo will be in Vietnam tomorrow, God willing?" Dave Ellis introduced Ed Lazeney '67, just turned 18. He was to receive a free sendoff... to Vietnam. He put on a gas mask and stepped into the gondola. Unfortunately, there was too much rigging in the gondola to lift off. Eventually it did rise, empty, leaving its occupant still on the ground.

At this point Bob Pyndick '66, Managing Editor yelled, "Wasn't that the worst stunt in the history of Yoo Doo?" The crowd agreed and Pyndick suggested that they throw Ellis, the publicity manager, in the Charles. Pyndick and Kim Thotron '67, Business Manager, carried Ellis across the Great Court to the boat house. Amidst cheers and applause, Dave Ellis was sent to the murky depths of the river. An unidentified witness to the scene came to the rescue at this moment. He promptly pushed up in Pyndick and Thotron. By the end of the stunt, most of the Yoo Doo staff, it seems, was all wet.

The SCEP feedback subcommittee was formed late November, with the purpose of studying feedback techniques and their possible uses as well as their limitations. In particular, it was to look into those methods that had been used at MIT over the past three years.

This subcommittee prepared a report on ten different feedback programs that had been used at MIT. This report is now being distributed to heads of large relevant courses and to heads of departments. In January copies will be distributed to all undergraduates.

In the study the subcommittee concluded that the benefit derived from the feedback program employed depended highly on how suitable it was to the demands of the course, and for most classroom situations there is some form of feedback which will benefit both students and teachers.

SCEP Questionnaires: For example, in large enrollment lecture courses there often seems to be a problem in communications between the students and the lecturer, wherever the latter does not have a reception section; in such a situation the lecturer might consider having a weekly feedback session with representatives from all the reception sections. On the other hand, a questionnaire might be the appropriate feedback technique to use in a reception.

Feedback can also help improve faculty-student relationships. Most of the faculty interviewed for the report were of the opinion that the use of feedback had made the students more aware of the effort that they were making to improve course quality. This led to higher course morale and better faculty-student relationships.

Many professors hoped that their students would feel free to talk over reasonably the problems in their courses.

Freshman Questionnaires: Another present project of the subcommittee involves the preparation of a freshmen questionnaire in conjunction with the Undergraduate Planning Professor, Fred G. G. Valley Jr., and the Freshman Council feedback subcommittee. This questionnaire will be distributed to freshmen through the Freshman Council representatives during the second week of school.

The results of this questionnaire will be used to improve Freshmen Welcome, the freshman elective system, the advisory system, and aspects of freshmen life. It is important that there be a sense of the freshmen class in order to get meaningful results.

Help Co-ordination: Another area of involvement will be that of coordinating information of projects between honors and professional societies. Last year's honor and professional society conference pointed out the serious lack of communication between these societies. Elia Kapas Na (Course VI) has run programs in which their pledges wrote an evaluation of upperclass Course VI courses. These reports were then compiled, edited, and discussed with the heads of the courses. This project (Course II) gave an award to the best student department. Most of those present at the conference felt that these ideas were worthwhile programs for the societies to undertake.

Library Feedback: SCEP is also involved in getting feedback on our Library system. For that purpose, SCEP has formed a subcommittee of the librarians, headed by Al Green '66. A library questionnaire was written up by the subcommittee and distributed at the SChool booth in Building 10 this week. The results of this questionnaire will be used to improve the collections of the library.

Literary Feedback: SCEP Co-ordination in the area of Student Center Co-ordination; in such a situation the subcommittee will be used to improve upon the operations of the Student Center.

Do you want to undertake. The subcommittee is (Please turn to Page 19)