The urge to serve

Volunteer workers to staff social service programs for the coming academic year are now being actively sought by the MIT Social Service Committee. Although graduate students and staff members are playing an important role in these programs, the various Social Service Committee programs, we think it is extremely important for undergraduates to realize that the success of the vital work coordinated by the SSC is primarily up to them.

We term the work of the SSC, which is charged with increasing the scope of social service work on the student level, vital because we strongly believe that this organization is offering opportunities which need to be a part of the experience of MIT students. Altruistic is not an adjective that a casual observer is likely to use in characterizing MIT undergraduates: This doesn’t necessarily mean that the average student at the Institute is selfish; what it does mean is that most of us are so tied up in our narrow little worlds of classes, campus, stereo, and studies that we seldom allow the problems of the outside world to intrude.

We grant that, unlike some students at Berkeley, most of us have little time left from our academic load and normal social considerations have taken their toll on our time. But on the other hand, it wouldn’t take many hours a week to impart some of that technical knowledge we’re so proud of to a junior high kid who needs a little help with his arithmetic or to lend some of the understanding and knowledge the College Board people claim we have to assisting with programs in local general or mental hospitals.

In fact, most of the tedious ground-work has already been done for potential volunteers. The SSC is now a functioning organization with strong backing from the Finance Board, the Activities Council, and the rest of the student government and institute hierarchy. Both tested programs with veteran workers and new programs with expendable horizons are in the coming year.

The only thing lacking is enough students with an interest of what life is like in a Negro ghetto, a mental hospital, or some of the slums that can be seen from dormitory windows, coupled with a desire to see what can be done to help cure the conditions. We think that a tremendous number of the students at this university would only very rarely, if ever, be in a position to participate in the programs offered. If you can’t square it on the basis of service to your fellow man, how can you call it up on your education in what the world is really like.

The SSC is planning a wide variety of programs including tutoring in Roxbury and Cambridge (in cooperation with the MIT Civil Rights Committee and the Tech Catholic Club), group work with Cambridge and Boston neighborhood centers, hospital work involving work with mental patients at Boston State Hospital (through TCA), residential work at Cambridge centers, and community action programs including involvement with tenant problems and problems of the aged.

We strongly urge each of you to check on programs available by stopping at the SSC booth in the lobby of Building 10 or going to the SSC office in Room 441 in the Student Center.

Guest Editorial

In the swim

This past Saturday the MIT varsity swimming team traveled to Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. In the meet they bested the team 100-46. However, this meet was very unusual for what happened at the meet, but for what followed the meet—a reception for Harvard alumni and high school students at the Wean Lounge. The purpose of the reception was public relations—to give a true image of Tech to the high school students and to keep the alumni abreast of changes in the undergraduate life.

This was not the result of a spontaneous demand from the Harvard Alumni. It was a carefully organized experiment by the Swim Club Secretary, Larry Press, Coach Dave Michael, Bill Bleyer ’68, the team manager, and the Athletic Dept. in cooperation with the Alumni Association.

The proof is in the pudding: the spectators gallery at Trinity was packed and about 20 percent were there to root for MIT.

The genesis of the Spartan event is a fact that an athletic honorary society can help the team in a concrete way or that a varsity manager can do more than paperwork to help the team. The real fact is that a varsity team can get better support at an away meet than at a home meet. Despite the fact that the MIT vs Holy Cross meet was publicized in every usual way (bulletin boards and The Tech) there was a grand total of 16 spectators, most of whom were rooting for the other team.

On Washington’s Birthday at 2 p.m., the swimming team hosted host Brown in a televised meet. MIT has not beaten Brown in swimming in 20 years, and this year we stand an excellent chance. The question is whether the athletic student body will come to the meet and provide the support the team really needs to close the 10-year gap.

Robert Howard ’67

College World

Golly! It’s Batman; stand for ‘Dixie’

By Jeff Trimmer

With villains such as The Penguin, The Joker, The Riddler Mr. Freeze, there is no doubt that Batman is a very interesting character. But what of the various capes that have been worn over the years? Such as The Bizarro, The Mad Hatter, The Joker, The Riddler, Mr. Freeze, or even The Penguin.

As of past years, the University has been known to determine which capes are to be worn at different events. The most recent example being the case of The Joker, a caped character that has been worn during the past three years. The Joker was first worn in 1966, and has continued to be a popular choice among the student body.

The recent discovery of a little known character, the “Nadir! Wells-Arthurs Chair of Dynamic Detection,” which carries an annual stipend of $70,500, brought the recommendation that this character be given to the head chef at California Tech. The chef, while at Caltech, has been the Lehigh tradition of looking food and service, and so it has been reported.

The award was given when it was determined that the chair stipulates that the receiver be given new duties.

Bardman sends code

An organization has been formed at Stanford for discussion of the problems of race relations. The group, known as the Stanford Civil Rights Forum, has distributed buttons with the group’s motto: “If it moves, feed it.” According to the Stanford Daily, the SRF will offer a petition which calls for the establishment of a chair of race law on the Stanford campus.

A statement of principles to

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