A need for space

Activities at MIT play an integral part in the total educational environment. They exist for the students solely for the benefit which can be gained in extra-curricular activities. When the Student Center was originally designed, it was thought that the fifth floor would be used to house activities as the need for more space developed. However, a later idea created the Student Center Library.

Nevertheless, it became apparent last spring that the activities floor was not adequate to meet all the needs of those groups desiring space. At the same time pressure mounted on the Planning Office to reallocate the second space in Walker Memorial. Competing for Walker were activities denied space in the Student Center, the academic department interested in creating testing rooms, East Campus interest in expanded athletic facilities, and the idea to house the Religious Counselors there.

The Activities Executive Board (AEB) sought to establish some groups in the basement and on the 3rd floor. Thereafter the AEB and submitted a report to the Planning Office containing a priority list for those activities needing space. Though the Planning Office has done much in gaining more facilities, establishing the counselors, and increasing the space of WIMX and Hillcl, the needs of the activities in general have not been considered.

The Student Center Committee (SCC) thought it had found a solution in constructing a tunnel under Mass Ave. complete with activities. When the decision to build a bridge was announced, no such solution was feasible. Finally, Incomm created the Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee to investigate the present situation and learn just what space was available for all activities, and how it might be better used.

The AEB has conducted an investigation and evaluation of the short term solution. Data has been collected concerning the number of people engaged in activity at different times during the week, month, and year. In addition, the committee has noted peaks and troughs, equipment used, and future needs has been collected. The SCC is using the data that the committee is collecting to correct the underestimates of AEB, SCC, and the musical theatrical groups who were to investigate short term remedies and long term solutions to the problem.

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