Who's Who Boo Hoo

UAP Bob Horvitz has decided to refer to Beaver Key the question of submitting the names of MIT students for inclusion in Who's Who at American Colleges and Universities. The names to be submitted are, of course, those of Beaver Key and they would be the only MIT students included in the volume. Frankly, we feel the entire idea is ridiculous.

First of all, the book Who's Who... serves no useful purpose. The college leges and Universities. The names to be submitted are, of course, those of Beaver Key and they would be the only MIT students included in the volume. Frankly, we feel the entire idea is ridiculous.

Now, the space program is the most essential, comparatively at least, to the nation. The nation cannot pay its way, if this is ever to be the principle purpose of the book.

Even if it were a non-profit "public service," there is a question of the relevancy of such a book. Departmenting, the names of any school is determined by quotas based on enrollment. Hence, MIT with 3600 undergraduates would receive not many more entries than Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas (2900 students).

The second basic issue is in the manner of selection. The logical choice since it consists of about the same number of members as MIT's quota and it is an honorary whose basis of selection is supposed to include a reasonable cross-section of MIT's more active students. But is it fair? For instance, Harvey Friedman, MIT's young Ph.D., though he was never officially a junior, would most likely not have made Beaver Key, and hence would not be "outstanding" enough for Who's Who. The process by which these contributions lie outside the realm of activities, athletics, and politics, which Beaver Key uses as its basis is not believed by the powers that be, that the existence of opportunities to broaden oneself is meaningless if restrictions prevent one from taking advantage of the opportunities.

We have set our sights on a lofty goal, and have made the initial strides toward it. However, its realization is not close, and the hardest hurdles are yet to come. Attainment of the goal will necessitate far greater changes than have been made up to now.

The The Myth

Yet, we are under a serious delusion if, we believe the answer has been found. The enlargement of the non-technical curricula will not in itself add the necessary human element to the undergraduate education. It may add more variety to the life of the Political Science or Economics major, but it will not improve the humanities into the education of the scientist or the engineer, who is constrained by numerous requirements.

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