UA outlines new programs

By James Moody

The undergraduate Association, under the direction of co-chiefs Linda Tufts and Derrick Vlad, has announced plans for numerous projects this year.

The UA, in conjunction with LSC, will be sponsoring a four-week lecture series, "Unsolved Mysteries of Past," the first lecture, on the middle of October, to us on peoples of the past, with topics such as Stonehenge, Atlantis, and Sisyros. The second lecture, "In Search of Dracula," will explore the origins of legendary Transylvanian Count.

Several ships and planes have been irrecoverably lost near Bermuda, and hundreds of people have thus been reported missing. "The Bermuda Triangle," the next lecture, will probe these mysterious disappearances. A movie will be released in November, allegedly telling the "true" story surrounding the November, 1963 Kennedy assassination. The final lecture will explore this version of the "truth." The talks will take place either in Kresge or 26-106, and admission will be free.

The UA will be running its 2nd annual voter registration drive during the second week in October. The deadline for registering is October 16. A table will be set up in the Student Center prior to this where people can register.

MIT's Open House will be one of the UA's Spring projects. This takes place another year. It gives the entire Boston area community a chance to visit MIT, to see what is going on in the classrooms and laboratories, and to meet some of the friendly people here.

The UA is now trying to get a date and book a major rock or jazz group to do a concert in Kresge in late November. Kresge's limited seating capacity, 1,200, makes top acts too economic, but they hope to get someone like Livingston Taylor or the James Montgomery Blues Band. If this is a success, other such concerts will be tried later in the year.

The Secretariat

Tufts and Vlad are currently reconvening the Secretariat, the administrative arm of the UA, into four divisions.

The Publicity Division will be responsible for all UA bulletin boards, the booths in the lobby of Building 10, and for publicizing all UA-coordinated events. A newsletter will be coming out soon once every couple of weeks. It will include a calendar of all campus extracurricular events, as well as details of the current activities of the UA committees: Nominations Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Student Finance Committee, and the Student Information Processing Board.

The Social Division will coordinate social events with other groups, such as the SCC and LSC. They will keep an updated list of all social events on campus, as well as maintain a list of reliable cheap bands and acts for living group parties. They will also run large social events such as the November concert.

The Administrative Division will handle such office-related functions as keeping minutes and mailing lists, working out a new filing system, etc.

Finally, the Elections and Constitutions Divisions will run the class and UA elections this Spring, and write the long-awaited new constitution for the UA. They will also work with other groups and activities in writing constitutions.

Faculty-student interaction

Vlad is continuing a project started last Spring, of investigating the ways in which students in different departments interact with the faculty to set curricular requirements, tenure, policy, evaluation of teaching, etc. He is paying particular attention to the student-faculty committee, and hopes to help strengthen these in all departments.

This week, Tufts and Vlad will be finalizing plans for an advisory group. This will be an informal group of about 20, whose primary role will be to enhance communication between the groups and organizations represented.

They hope the communication will foster greater cooperation between the groups, which have been virtually isolated from each other for the past few years. The group may also recommend and/or coordinate new activities. Tufts expressed pleasure that "new lines of communication are opening up everywhere between students."

She also pointed out that the UA is always looking for people with new ideas or suggestions, adding that, "we have the resources and manpower to help you carry them out."

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