Institute goal: more applicants

By Paul Schneider

MIT admitted half the students who applied last year, and half of those admissions did not come.

According to Director of Admissions Peter Richardson, these statistics could be changed if more people would visit their high schools over Thanksgiving and Christmastime.

Richardson did not agree that the MIT student body is narrow, either in terms of social or curricular interests, but he did state that the student body was not as diverse as the group that was offered admission.

"The people that look really good on their applications are offered admission to a lot of schools, and many of them go somewhere else," he said.

Richardson touted the value of personal recommendations that "there is no need to sell MIT, just tell what you know." If it is insufficient, he said, to ensnare interested in the Institute.

While the value of personal visits has always been an issue, especially in the past, but that William Hecht, Associate Director of Admissions, states that the personal visits of potential students, which is based on a UROP program, that encourages the input that the applicant uses in deciding which school to attend.

(Hecht recently told The Tech that final work on the report, including its presentation to the Faculty Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid is underway.)

According to Richardson, the report confirms old hunches about the undergraduate student, being "one of the most reliable career in the eyes of prospective applicants," of information about the Institute.

He said he was proud of the documents his office puts out to encourage potential applicants out the "rediscovery of pleasure in learning to study better."

"IAP is for your benefit," Richardson stated. "We want everyone to know that IAP is underway, and to encourage more people to set up projects and actions."

That is that there is still some money available. After three years, IAP has had an overwhelming success with the number of undergraduate students.

The Psychiatric Service of the MIT Medical Department, according to Freibiey, reports a marked decrease in the amount of problems during the December/January since IAP started.

"With the free atmosphere of MIT, the usual pressures of that time have vanished," Freibiey explained.

As compared to 4-1-4 programs at other universities, MIT's IAP is very successful. "I was at a conference for colleges using it, and we are not having any of the problems they are. The problems don't even develop," she said.

Friebley pointed out that her office had no connection with the "calendar" put out two years ago. "I did not realize it was a joke produced by Ducko Tec" magazine were quite upset." Friebley explained.

Friebley stated that she did not feel limited by the divisions of the faculty, Faculty are not restricted to their department, nor should anyone worry about classifying their own activity. There is often an overlap between them.

"IAP is for your benefit," Friebley said. "We have the calendar and take note of what you want to do. Don't restrict yourself to one area, there are movies, lectures, and seminars that you can attend. Have a good time.

Planning underway for Independent Activities

By Henry Freibiey

The 1974 Independent Activities Period will soon be upon us, and many people, especially freshmen, are wondering what is it all about.

"It is a time for the MIT community to look at and think about the experiences of the academic year," says Jean Friebley, while Joel Orlen, Assistant to the Provost, is Chairman of the IAP Planning Committee. This committee is very involved, but does not have a title. She came to MIT last year as a freshman for the IAP Guide; this year, she is serving as Head Coordinator.

She sees IAP as a chance for students and faculty to experiment with new things. An important benefit, she feels, is the "rediscovery of pleasure in learning to study better."

She feels that IAP is a good time for any of the activities, one merely has to show up at the first meeting, listed in the guide, except when a prerequisite or organizational meeting is scheduled. However, Friebley advises contacting the person sometime before Christmas vacation to be sure.

The first IAP guide came out this Wednesday, and, Friebley said, "The only way to find out what will be happening during January is to read it."

The second guide, due December 12 or 13, will change categories, correct omissions, and 100-150 additional listings.

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