

The UA News

to the freshman

Welcome to M.I.T. In the next four years, most of you will receive one of the finest educations in the world. M.I.T. has a great deal to offer to its students in the extra-curricular field as well as the academic. Unfortunately, however, too many students neglect the non-academic parts of their education.

There are almost 120 official activities at M.I.T. Every interest is represented from tiddlywinks to science-fiction reading to newspapers to white-water canoeing. Besides offering a foundation for learning more about the activity, the groups provide an opportunity to learn more about yourself and other people.

Too often the fact that the world is made up of individual human beings, instead of just conglomerations of people, is lost. There is a world of individuals at M.I.T. They have all sorts of different interests, ideas and motivations. The image of the "tech tool" grinding away is not far from reality for a small portion of the M.I.T. student body. It is unfortunate that they never manage to get out of their rooms, to look around at the world and at the people in it. What we are asking you to do is to avoid that mistake. Join an activity, meet some people. Get out of your rooms and look around.

The UA office on the fourth floor of the Student Center is a good place to start. We are trying to find people to develop and work on projects. Large concerts, academic exchanges, and lectures are just some of the things that the UA can do. We need your help and you need ours. Stop by today, or call x3-2696.

This is the first edition of the Undergraduate Association section. Beginning Sept. 17, this weekly section will provide a listing of campus social events, information about student committees and activities, and space for opinions, comments and discussions on topics relevant to MIT.

We hope that students will become more aware of the opportunities that MIT has to offer and that the increased publicity for events and organizations will enlarge the audiences that take advantage of them.

This section is sponsored and edited by the Undergraduate Association President's office, which takes sole responsibility for its content.

Our Goals

One of the goals of the UA this year is to develop procedures for solving specific student problems and to open lines of communication between the Student Body and the Institute Administrators. This should make life easier for students who feel hassled by the Institute and also help us to identify widespread problems which are affecting many or all students. It should then be possible for us to apply the experience and familiarity we have with MIT's policies and procedures towards solving the problems and implementing the solutions.

In general, we want the UA to serve in an "ombudsman" role for all students at the Institute, but taking a strong advocacy role whenever necessary. We hope to offer the following services:

1. referrals to the person or group best suited to give you help or information.
2. mediate disputes of any kind between any groups or people.
3. provide impartial third party recommendations or arbitration.

4. tell you how other students solved the same problem.

5. identify places in the Institute where large numbers of students are having trouble, find general solutions, and work to implement them.

6. pass your suggestions on to others.

7. help get rid of some of the red tape and undue hassles at the Institute.

8. bring community-wide pressure to bear on the solution of large problems by giving progress reports in this newsletter.

The UA is setting up a mechanism for handling grievances as an experiment. We feel it is needed because of the many complaints voiced by many students. But, this will not work or get off the ground if the people with complaints or problems don't contact us. So, come see us if:

-you don't know where else to go

-you are dissatisfied with the results you have been getting

-you are unhappy with the currently available means for solving a problem or finding information

-you don't feel you are being listened to

-you see something that can be improved by change anywhere at MIT (This is as general as it sounds. We hope to provide a quick channel to committees, offices, etc., for any ideas you have.)

-you see someone else getting a rough deal, or

-you feel you are getting screwed by "the system."

We will keep you all informed of solutions and progress by making regular reports in this newsletter. We will also be looking for someone to head this operation up as it gets going. We have heard a lot of complaints for a long time. The UA is now ready, willing, and able to help out.

LSC presents

Saturday, Sept. 7

The Graduate

Monday, Sept. 9

REGISTRATION DAY

Behind

the

Green Door

both in

Kresge Auditorium

7 & 9:30pm

Admission-50¢

MIT ID Required

**Dormitory Council
stages**

**A
Block
Party**



TODAY

12n-8pm

Kresge Plaza

Rock Band 1-5pm

Hot Dogs & hamburgers

Dixieland Jazz 5-8pm

FREE — BEER

MUNCHIES

SODA