Self-help books beckon students

By Bob Waterman

The spring term is finally getting under way, and this means that the bookstore is a beehive of activity with students comprising the majority of the customers. If you make your way through the stacks you will see students during the 1960's who didn't make many friends but certainly will remember you while grading exams. The author, a noted psychologist, has mislead the reader into believing that this book is entitled "Your Own Best Friend - Power of Positive Thinking." The man with the grin on the cover has much time and energy on this concept and why should you be in-terested. Or are you looking for the answer to the problem of student-faculty relationships. I'm sorry, but the answer is that you will never find it in this type of book.

Something else

By David A. Schaller '78 - Chairman

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The position of UAP would remain as it is now, except that he would be added on to the four members of the new Undergraduate Committee (as described above). Together they would form a five-member Executive Committee that would be responsible for the day-to-day responsibilities of government.

An Open Letter to MIT Undergraduates:

Last Wednesday I spoke at a faculty meeting and urged the faculty to keep the Drop Date at the eleventh week. I still think a real fifth week Drop Date would decrease pressure. In the words of A. A. Sherman, mime extraordinaire:

"I've seen many students worked up over this bureaucratic detail, indicating some strong underlying feelings, and I feel that unless the problem is solved many of you would continue to spend much time and energy on this bureaucratic detail rather than on the underlying pressures and attitudes which make you feel strongly about it. I respect the students who argued against the proposal and talked to the teachers who showed up at the faculty meeting. Because they succeeded - succeeding at something is easy - the hard part is convincing yourself to do something rather than just bemoaning about it. Well, we've all been breathing off about Drop Date. You thought an early drop date would cause too much pressure. Everyone worried about how the pressure there is already. I applied the CEP and the CAP's attempt to limit the problems of pressure at MIT even though they didn't actually have to try to resolve this pressure in a bureaucratic way. I would respect Dr. Halstur, chairman of the faculty, for his constant and sincere pursuit and encouragement of student opinions. Well that attempt has been thwarted and you helped. But don't let anyone use the words 'control' or 'student rights' in discussing the relationship of students with faculty: the students outnumbered more than half of the faculty present, we did not control any of the discussion. But the basic issue is unresolved - how to limit, moderate, alleviate, or release the pressure and the negative effects of the internal MIT experience on the eligible people who come here. You are all eligible for the presence as well as one of those eligible people. Peer pressure is the greatest pressure they could impose on you in a very powerful position to do something about MIT.

So do something about it. Or else the faculty will be obliged to try again. If you want some help, call me at 22-2696 or 354-4771.

Peter Berks, President

Undergraduate Association

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