CSF finances community services

By Martin Prince

"The MIT Financial Student Service Fund (CSF) has recently decided to allocate money specifically to help fund student projects engaged in community activities," according to a memo written by Robert Kellerman, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and a member of the CSF Board of Trustees. This decision was made when the CSF received a proposal that has resulted in a substantial CSF budget surplus for the past year.

CSF wants to "attract more students to participate in community activities," said Kellerman. Another inducement for students to initiate projects, in addition to the new funding, is the James R. Kel- lerman Award, which is to be announced this year and is to be presented annually at the Interfraternity Conference and the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs.

Individual MIT students or groups consisting primarily of MIT students can send written requests for funds to Room 5-208 through March 29. Money may be used for materials or supplies but not to pay salaries.

Requests will receive consideration but it will be assumed that most requests will be for no more than a couple hundred dollars," said Kellerman.

Requests are considered only once a year. This year, however, proposals will be received "on an "immediate," according to Kellerman, "in an effort to be flexible in responding to students. Students with questions are urged to contact Carmen Besterman, Room 5-208, x3-1985.

Grants are awarded only to service oriented projects that meet several criteria. Projects must involve MIT students, benefit the community, and they must be unlikely to use the full $2000 CSF sources.

One project currently receiving CSF money is Urban Action, Group, which was "a means of supporting students interested in helping the community," as Kellerman continued.

CSF aid is to be given by a Board of Trustees made up of all sectors of the MIT community. CSF trustee members include faculty, staff, students, alumni, and MIT employees.

By Z. Sakom

On Monday, March 6, four Russian emigres spoke at MIT on "social role of the academic community in aiding the human rights struggle in the USSR.

First to address an audience of approximately 100 was Avital Shcharansky, wife of the currently imprisoned Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky. Until last year when he was arrested on charges of treason, Mr. Shcharansky, a 30-year-old computer engineer, played a leading role in the Helsinki Watch Com- mission. He helped in the monitoring of Soviet compliance with the human rights pledges made in the Helsinki Accords in 1975.

Mrs. Shcharansky labelled it "fascist" the Soviet allegations that her husband was involved in espionage missions for the CIA. (President Carter has publicly denied any connection between Shcharansky and the CIA.) The Soviet, claims Mrs. Shcharansky, is turning her husband's treason charge into "a campaign against my husband and against the Jews in the USSR. Of the Jews in- terrogated in foreign countries during Russian communist overthrow, 90 percent said they had no connections with Shcharansky. These Jews have been threatened with the warning, "Today you are witnesses, tomorrow you may be arrested," according to Mrs. Shcharansky.

Mr. Shcharansky, who left the USSR in 1974 to live in Israel, is urging world communities to take a stand on her husband's defense. She feels that the Soviet govern- ment is using with her husband's case to see how much it can thwart the struggle for Russian Jewish identity. The problem car- ries with it the whole weight of the minority rights issue in the USSR, she pointed out.

Ardis Amatov, Soviet dissident, received a standing ovation when she left.

Last Wednesday night the Interfraternity Conference elected officers for the 1978-79 year. Outgoing Chairman Peter Fei charged the fraternities to "continue to work together with the officers that you will elect tonight in fulfilling the fraternity system," and distributed a 12-page "State of the System" report covering past ac- complishments and future hopes of the IFC.

The new chairman, Joe Chop- man '80 of Tau Epsilon Phi, said, "I look forward to another year of work with the fraternities and an increase in upcoming projects such as the New England Engineering Design Competition which will prove valuable to the system as a whole.

The new officers are: Chairman - Joe Chapman '80, Tau Epsilon Phi. Vice-Chairman - Barbi Hill '80, Delta Phi (No.6 Club). Secretary - Terry Neiman '80, Tau Epsilon Phi. Treasurer - Mike Johnson '80, Beta Theta P. Rush Chairman - Dave Maurer '78, Delta Upsilon. Recruitment Chairman - Jim Thompson '79, Theta Chi. Purchasing Manager - Chuck Markham '74, Sigma Chi.

One of the biggest problems facing MIT students who wish to volunteer their time and skills but who have little experience in this area is where to start.

The Community Relations Office (CRO), located in the basement of the Campus Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The CRO provides local and national information about volunteer opportunities, and can help MIT students in finding volunteer situations.

The CRO can help students find opportunities in activities ranging from reading to working with the elderly, from working with the disabled to helping the homeless.

The CRO can also assist students in finding volunteer opportunities in the areas of human rights, social justice, health care, education, and the arts.

Community Relations also sponsors weekly workshops on topics such as "Volunteering: A New Look at Community Service," "Volunteering: A New Look at Social Justice," and "Volunteering: A New Look at Health Care."

The CRO also sponsors a annual volunteer fair, which is held in the spring of each year.

The fair is open to all MIT students, and it provides an opportunity for students to learn more about volunteer opportunities and to meet with representatives from different organizations.

The fair is also an opportunity for students to learn about the different types of volunteer work that are available, and to find out more about the organizations that are offering these opportunities.

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