Frosh contacts planned

By Jay Glass

A class-wide program of summer contacts is being added to the agenda of the 1979 Residence/Orientation (R/O) program. The new R/O team will insure that every member of the incoming Class of 1983 receives a personal letter-person-to-person contact with an MIT student.

In previous years, incoming freshmen had to rely on possible contacts from the members of MIT living groups to supplement the huge amounts of written material sent to freshmen over the summer. The Association of Women Students and the Black Student Union also ran summer programs to contact prospective members of their organization. 1979 R/O Coordinator Eric Sklar '81 appeared unconcerned about members of their organizations. "This past weekend was Kaleidoscope, MIT's annual spring variety show. The Undergraduate Association organized an outdoor picnic on the playing field before the show. Each received a letter from the sophomore class and junior class. The plan, due to start next fall, would provide an MIT class with $500 in three installments: $100 to each class in the spring of the freshman year; $100 to each class in the spring of the sophomore year. These interest-free loans would be payable in December of the class's junior year.

Bonnie Jones of the Alumni Association explained that they were first approached by a student, Barry Starr '80. Starr presented a written proposal to the Alumni Association last fall as a way to ease planning of social events for the freshman and sophomore classes. Both classes are often hampered by a lack of funds when they try to hold parties or the like.

A procedure for the program was set last fall when the sophomore and junior classes both approached the Alumni Association for loans. Each received loans, and the junior class has paid its back, while the sophomore class is in the process of doing the same.

In addition to the freshman and sophomore class loans, the plan, originally announced on April fourth, will include a $400 reserve fund. This money will be available to classes who wish to cover short-term capital, especially to float fund-raising projects. Unlike the freshman and sophomore loans, which accrue automatically, these loans will have to be applied for.

Some details of the program still have to be worked out. The program is expected to be ready in time, however, to benefit the class of '83 next fall.

UROP pay scale discussed

By John Miller

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) is considered by many to be an important feature of undergraduate education at MIT. Approximately three-fourths of the student body participates in UROP at some time during their undergraduate career. In addition to the educational benefits of UROP, however, a lot of students look to do research for pay, rather than credit, during the term. Ten to twenty percent of the students in UROP during the term are paid, and almost all students in UROP during the summer are paid.

UROP wages have become an important way for a student to make up the self-help portion of the equity level, established by the Financial Aid Office. Fortunately, MIT's wage is limited to $3,05. The only way a student can make more is if the faculty person pays the student entirely or if the student obtains funds from other sources, such as an outside corporation or an NSF grant.

The UROP people actually encourages students to seek outside funding. McGovern believes that it can be a valuable asset to a research program. Total funding from faculty and corporations is often not enough to cover an experiment, so it can also prove difficult and time-consuming. Even after the student is paid, the faculty member might not be able to provide all the students with funds. Students who have done research under UROP commented that the pressure of everyday life at the Institute don't afford much time to go looking for grants. The UROP people do provide information on a number of grants and a listing of outside corporations, but it is entirely up to the student to do the contacting on his own. The only way to increase the UROP wage would be to increase the major source of allocation, the amount allotted to UROP each year from the Institute General Fund. Presently the fund provides UROP with $340,000. (Please turn to page 3.)

Alumni Association to give class loans

By J.G. Harrington

In order to help solve the problem governments have in getting off the ground, the MIT Alumni Association is planning a loan program.

The plan, due to start next fall, would provide an MIT class with $500 in three installments: $100 as soon as class leadership is established; $200 in the spring of the freshman year, and $500 in the spring of the sophomore year. These interest-free loans would be payable in December of the class's junior year.

Bonnie Jones of the Alumni Association explained that they were first approached by a student, Barry Starr '80. Starr presented a written proposal to the Alumni Association last fall as a way to ease planning of social events for the freshman and sophomore classes. Both classes are often hampered by a lack of funds when they try to hold parties or the like.

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