THE FACILITATORS

HISTORY

Last year there was a great controversy over an informal report made by Dan Weiner, a faculty member from the Psych. Dept., concerning Student-Faculty relations. The controversy stemmed from the reports claim of general apathy on campus. Several meetings were held to examine the reports findings. The last one being a general meeting attended by a large student body.

AIMS

Neither the committee or the proposed plan are meant to be counter structures to presently existing university structures. The report (if true) indicates among other things some serious gaps in whatever lines of communication exist among the various university bodies. The plan intends to go some way towards bridging these gaps: to open new lines where present lines of communication do not exist and to make conscious explicit and coordinate use of what is presently available. The intention is also to involve as many individuals and as many groups as possible in the process. The committee then exists not just for the student body but for any individual or group which believes it might be able to make use of the committees service.

STRUCTURE

The committee is made up of a group of persons who have volunteered to act as 'Facilitators' for a two month period. Any other person in the university community may volunteer to act in this capacity. As envisaged, resource persons are to play mainly an advisory role. Given a problem where the ordinary means of solution do not seem to be working or applicable, the person or persons should contact the 'Facilitators' who will in conjuction with the persons concerned decide on a course of action. The action to be taken is dependent on the problem, however, it is speculated that some problems will admit of no ready solution, in which case there will be, it is hope the formation of a standing committee composed of those persons concerned. The committee will be maintained as long as the problem remains, and it will be dissolved as soon as the problem is in some fashion dissipated. In this way a given committee will be generated out of a given problem and dissolved with the dissolution of the problem.

SANTIONS AND POWERS

The facilitators have no formally recognized position among this university's structures and have no recognized authority; by the same token, however, they have no special interest. They will attempt to represent or give help to anyone who wishes to represent themselves within the university community despite the lack of formal powers. It is believed by the members of this interim committee that a condition for the solution of many political problems is contingent upon public knowledge of those problems. The dissemination of such information, it is conceived will be one of the most important functions of the facilitators. The university community, having secured such information will be in a better position to make its own decisions. In instances where the problem is private in nature the facilitators will be prepared to act as sources of knowledge, or if necessary, sources of contact between the persons who need help and the persons who have the expertise to give it.

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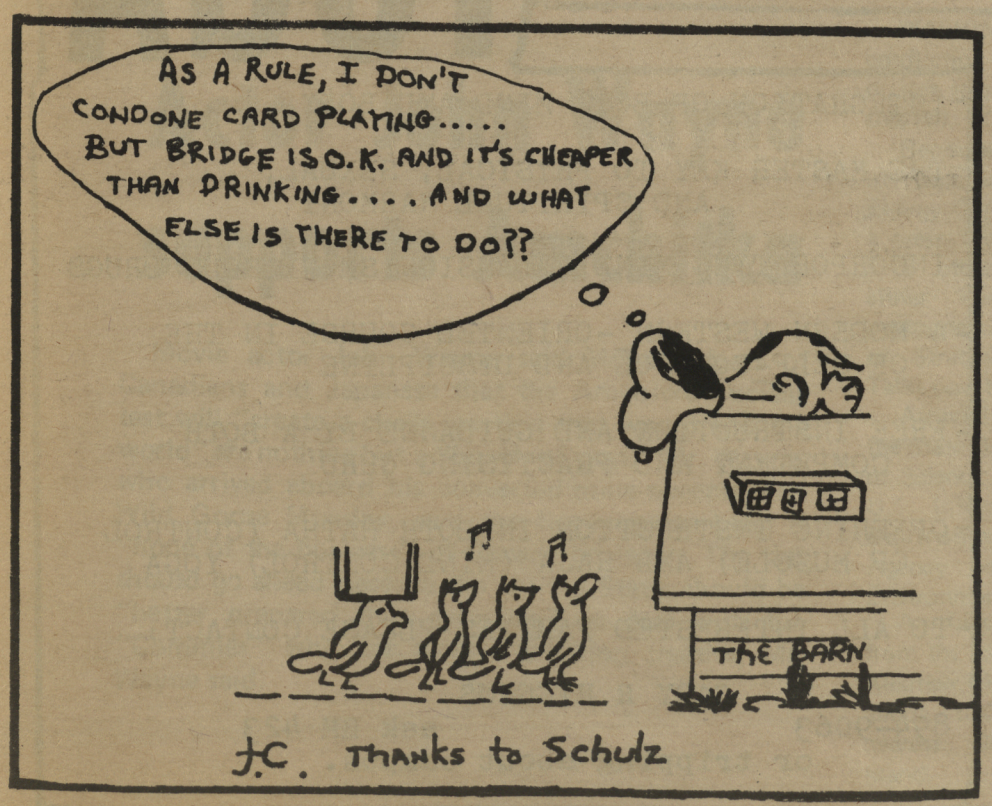

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