Voluntarism Is The Key

By MEL LACK

In Wiess, awareness of the college and its direction is a subtle thing with a person slowly realizing what a college system stands for. We have no one aim or ideal which we force the college nor is there a required “party line.”

Each individual is allowed and encouraged to develop as such. The college attempts to provide each member with something, some activity—insignificant as it may appear—with which he may express or identify himself. With this in mind, we offer a wide range of informal discussion groups to fit an even wider range of interests. There is an active participation in the intramural and intracollege tournaments; and, for the spontaneous, the less formal sports of Acabowl (touch football a la Kennedy), frisbee, and even stickball (out-of-staters influence). Our social program attracts the different groups because of the variety of the affairs: swimming, ice skating, dances, buffets, both stag and date affairs, on and off campus, formal and relaxed.

THE POSITION the college takes in a student’s life is a unique one. The college members are assigned with the specific purpose of diversity of majors in mind; this implies a similar diversity of thought and ideas. The college must both supplement and complement the University’s educational endeavor. This is done by providing the opportunities for both learning and experience.

It is easier for our college members to maintain their individualism. The physical lay-out of the college with its two-man rooms and outdoor walkways does not force upon a person a false camaraderie or a “groupism aspect” that another living arrangement might necessitate. The exchange of ideas and abilities, therefore, is the result of voluntary action with, of course, the college government providing impetus and encouragement.

THERE CANNOT be an objective comparison of today with years past, as none of us within the system can step out and take a good look at the picture. Nor can one judge what distinguishes us from the other colleges; we essentially know little or nothing about each other. Each college has, I am sure, a chorus, court, library, college nights of sorts, a Fellows group, social affairs, etc—qualitatively we may differ, but quantitatively we are the same. This quality, or personality as someone has suggested, is an intangible thing which can be measured only by and in terms of each individual’s standards.

The college and its “achievements” are, therefore, what its members are, and this will always be an ever-changing gauge.