

200 Push Student Service

By JUDY HIPPLER

College activists demand more relevant education and cities desperately need manpower and intelligence to meet urban needs. The Atlanta Service-Learning Conference may help solve both problems.

The first meeting in a six-month series about student involvement in community problems was held Monday and Tuesday. The 200 persons attending studied ways for Atlanta's 50,000 college students to receive credit while participating in community service.

The meeting was sponsored by the City of Atlanta, Atlanta Urban Corps, Economic Opportunity Atlanta (EOA) and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Also the Peace Corps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Southern Regional Education Board and Atlanta colleges and universities.

"These are troubled times," said Bill Allison, who will become EOA director July 16. "Our campuses are witnessing a revolutionary response by young people who want to do something about the world they live in. What happens on campus cannot be separated from what happens in larger society."



PEACE CORPS DEPUTY DIRECTOR ENDORSES SERVICE-LEARNING CONCEPT
Tom Houser Speaks Between Representatives of VISTA, Morehouse College and Urban Corps

Alison spoke on "Needs of Urban America" at lunch Monday. He urged cooperation between universities and government and private agencies to solve mutual problems.

"Recognition that academic and larger communities have a common interest is long overdue," he said. "Now is the time for them to work together. Participation is the name of the game and service-learning is one way participation can be realized."

The service-learning concept is that experience outside the classroom broadens education.

"The Peace Corps has been in the business of service-learning for about eight years," said Tom Houser, Peace Corps deputy director. "Most returning volunteers say they learned more than they gave."

COMBINE CONCEPTS

"We in VISTA are trying to combine the concepts of education, experience and community service," said H. Jeffrey Binda, executive assistant to the VISTA director. "The purpose of our education-action programs is to aid the disadvantaged and do something for the volunteers."

Students can already serve in the Peace Corps, VISTA, Teacher Corps and Urban Corps but most colleges do not give credit for this service.

"It's much simpler to approach a university for course

credit than many think," claimed Binda.

A member of the School of Education's curriculum committee said Georgia State College already gives some credit for participation in tutorial programs. Mrs. Sara Reale said students can tutor disadvantaged children three hours a week and receive three hours credit.

A former Tulane University student said a new course there with academic credit will feature community service.

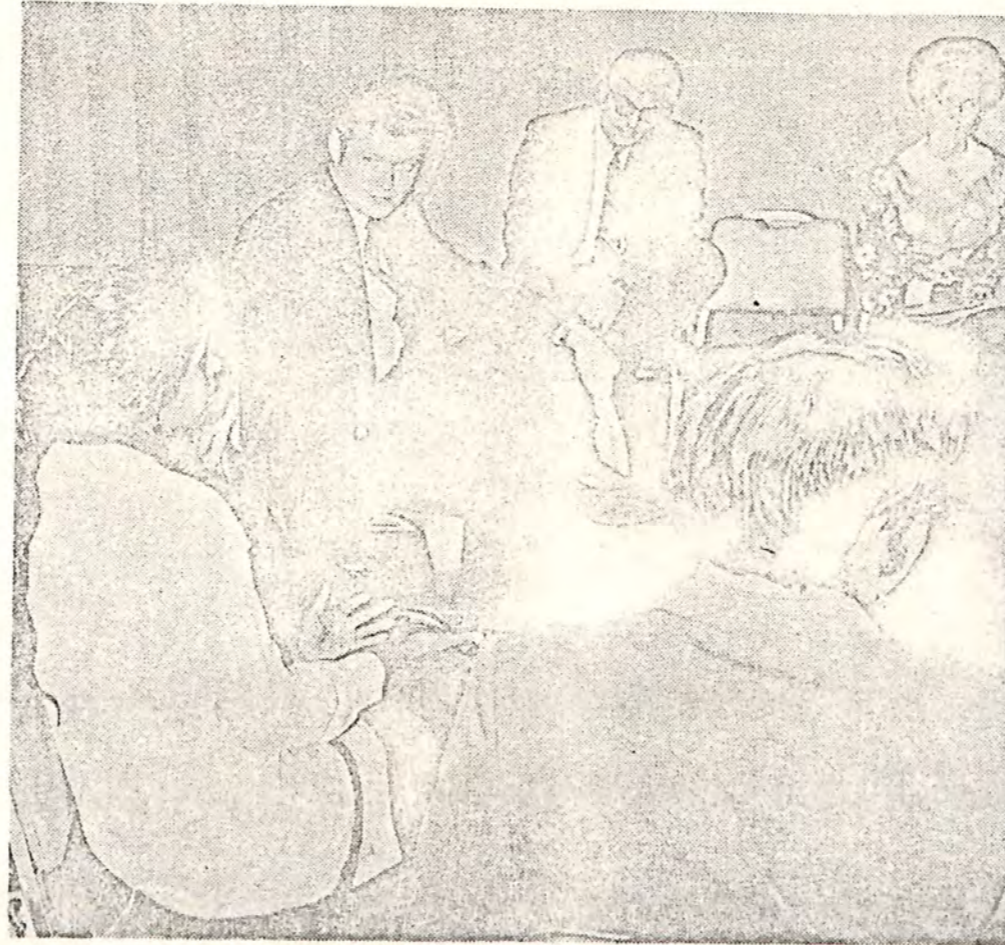
Yet it's not easy to persuade university administrators to give credit.

WANT RESULTS

"Curriculum committees are jealous of their courses," said Agnes Scott College graduate Tara Swartsel. "They're hesitant to let students out of the classroom into the field unless they see definite results."

Mayor Allen welcomed participants Monday to the two-day conference. Speakers included: U.S. Commissioner of Education James E. Allen Jr., Atlanta deputy administrator Dan Sweat, Atlanta Urban Corps director Sam Williams and White House speech writer Lee Heubner. Also, Urban Corps National Development Office director Michael Goldstein, Georgia Tech president Arthur G. Han-

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Staff Photo—Joe McTyre

QUESTION: HOW CAN COLLEGE COURSES BE MORE RELEVANT?
Service-Learning Participants Try to Find the Answer

200 Push for Service

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sen and Upward Bound director Ed Ducree.

Six group seminars interspersed with speeches focused on service, learning, curriculum, finance, methods and programs and research.

A play presented Monday morning illustrated the service-learning concept. "A Broad Approach to Rapid Transit" featured characters C. "Vic" Leader, Able N. Willing, Mrs. Minn Ority and O. L. McDonald from EIEIO (Environmental Investigations with Economic Impact Office).

Education commissioner Allen said extending classroom theory into government work is a "step toward relevant education." Atlanta deputy administrator

Sweat stressed the need for student involvement in community problems.

"Students of today can provide a valuable service to the community," he said. "The re-

sources of the academic community must be liberated. I shall support the service-learning concept. We want to be part of what you're doing, hope you'll be a part of what we're doing, too."

The service-learning conference will continue for months with periodic meetings.