

PROGRESS REPORT  
TO THE  
ATLANTA URBAN CORPS, INC., BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Atlanta Urban Corps completed its first quarter of operation on August 22, climaxing a ten week intern program utilizing students in urban problems . The program involved 225 students from 43 different colleges. Approximately 80% of these students were from Atlanta area colleges. Interns were placed in 35 public interest non-profit agencies and 15 departments of the City of Atlanta. Approximately 45% of the students were black and 55% white. A typical example of a city department internship was a team of 15 students doing research and data analysis in the City sanitation department. Others served on the Mayor's staff doing research and another example was students compiling financial information for possible tax legislation in the City of Atlanta. The private public-interest agencies tended to utilize students more in the social and humanistic disciplines such as counseling or working in recreation programs involving young people and actual communities. A typical example is an intern serving in the Emmaus House teaching children from deprived neighborhoods basic reading skills and education courses during the summer. Another example involved ten students in a mentally retarded children's camp sponsored by the Decatur-Dekalb YMCA.

This summer our operating budgets was approximately \$200,000 broken down as follows.

\$52,000	Appropriation from City of Atlanta
\$20,000	Southern Regional Education Board

\$13,000	Private Business Contributors
\$75,000	College Work-Study Program (Grants from the Office of Education through Individual Colleges)
\$20,000	Private Public -interest Agencies
\$20,000	Volunteers in Service to America

Approximately half, or 114 students, were sponsored under the College Work-Study program, which is a federally sponsored program of the Office of Education whereby the college pays 80% of the intern's stipend, with the agency involved supplying the remaining 20%. The College Work-Study program is available to every public college and grants vary according to requests and needs of the colleges involved. The student financial aid officer is in charge of these funds of each campus and can allocate them as he desires to "off-campus non-profit agencies" such as the Atlanta Urban Corps. This summer we were fortunate in persuading financial aid officers to contribute heavily to the Atlanta Urban Corps, and evidently this figure will rise appreciably next year. Interns salaries were \$72.00 (1.80/hr) weekly for freshman and sophomores, \$88.00 (\$2.20/hr) weekly for juniors and seniors and \$100.00 (\$2.50/hr) for graduate students.

We received 880 student applications for the summer program giving a very good indication that students are indeed very interested in participating in summer internships and college-community involvement programs. We received 300 requests from city departments and public interest-agencies requesting interns to serve as assistants during the summer. Unfortunately these position requests usually can't be paid for at full cost by the agency, hence, the need for private donations for non-work-study interns. We have already received over 75 requests for interns to serve during the academic program.

This summer the Urban Corps was administered by a student staff of 15 people whose abilities and dedication are directly attributable to the program's

success. We started extremely late in the academic year and ended up with a very substantial program involving numerous colleges and students. We were fortunate that much ground work had been done in Atlanta and many of the organizations whose resources were needed had been involved early in the planning and understood the aspects of the program well. This was due to hard work done by many students in Atlanta from various colleges. A special note of thanks should go to Dave Whelan, Mark Dash and Rich Speer, whose early work in contacting the Board of Trustees and especially fund raising later proved beneficial to the Urban Corps. We found that these students, through contacting various colleges, were primarily responsible for the high number of applications we received with little or no publicity.

This summer the Urban Corps has administratively operated under the City of Atlanta and the Southern Regional Education Board, primarily for contractual agreements purposes with the agencies and for legal contracts with the colleges. A very large in determining administrative responsibility was in the question of who served as the paymaster. The City was most cooperative this summer in absorbing a deficit spending situation whereby it absorbed the cost of the student's stipend until colleges could reimburse them. Also, many agencies were tardy in paying their share of the student's stipend. In some cases this meant a debt of \$60,000 which was carried over a three or four week period. This is the primary problem in utilizing a group such as the Board of Trustees in handling administrative difficulties that arise in the Urban Corps. If the Board of Trustees had a large bank account and could absorb tremendous deficits within a short period of time, no difficulty would arise. Otherwise, the City must be retained in some paymaster role or legal role for contractual authority. (In my opinion, the Urban Corps as we know it today, should operate under its present system through the summer of 1970 with the Board of Trustees taking ultimate control in September of 1970.) The financial and payroll problems incurred this summer point to the need for extensive planning and lead time before the Trustees

take over the Urban Corps operation.

A special note of thanks should go to Dan Sweat, who helped us with space, payroll problems, contractual problems, and staff expenses during the initial summer program. Unfortunately, those elected officials at City Hall do not completely agree with Mr. Sweat. The City Finance Committee naturally closely scrutinizes our monetary requests. From a purely financial point of view these members of the Board of Aldermen do not agree **that** we should have educational counseling as they put no emphasis on the educational aspects of the program. These financial people interpret the Urban Corps as a cheap summer employment program for summer months only. This again is an indication that more input is needed from the colleges and those "education" spectrums of the community. Naturally the more money that comes in from other sources the more autonomy we may have in making expenditures.

From the first ideas of the Urban Corps to its actual implementations, there has been a tremendous emphasis on student input. Presently, we have a high degree of student participation in that all of our staff members are students. In my opinion, student **représentation** should be included on the Board of Trustees, but these students should come from the ranks of those who have served as Urban Corps interns, rather than having student governments elect any interested student to serve in that role. From operational experiences this summer, we have found that the program is best administered by one individual reporting to a small group of people rather than the original proposal of having two people head the organization, one in the role of a student director and one in the role of the staff director. My suggestion for continuing the student input is to make sure that the Director is a young person, preferably a graduate student himself and that the Board of Trustees function more closely to the Urban Corps.

Presently, the Atlanta Urban Corps, Inc., exists only on paper. The Internal

Revenue Service has granted the Atlanta Urban Corps, Inc., a tax exemption status. The next step for the Board of Trustees is to make the by-laws more specific. Also, the membership of the Board of Trustees should be revised to make sure that all sectors of the community are equally involved and that no sector is overweighed, specifically in reference to the resources needed to operate the Urban Corps.

I am leaving to attend Graduate School at Harvard University, but have found a replacement who is very interested in the Urban Corps and knows a lot about it from his experience this summer. This student was recruited and interviewed by myself, Bill Ramsay, Dan Sweat and others intimately involved in the Urban Corps.

Mr. Ken Millwood is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Journalism and is presently pursuing a Master's Degree in Georgia State's Night School. Ken was Urban Corps Public Relations Director this summer and did an excellent job as you probably know if you saw news clippings about the Urban Corps this summer. The present plan of the Urban Corps is to administratively report to the City and the Southern Regional Education Board as we have done in the past.

There are many possibilities on the horizon for future operations as far as finance and other resources are concerned. The Urban Observatory, a college affiliated research group of the Mayor's Office, has asked for a grant of \$30,000 to be given to the Urban Corps for operational expenses. This grant has not yet been approved by HEW. The United States Commissioner of Education, Mr. James E. Allen, Jr., had indicated very strong support from HEW to the Urban Corps and other internship programs. Mr. Allen made a statement recently to Urban Corps interns saying that roughly half of the college work-study allocations should be spent in such involvement programs between the college and the

and the community. The Office of Education is presently implementing this guideline which means that next year the Urban Corps in Atlanta will absorb approximately \$700,000 of College Work-Study funding. We anticipate roughly 1,000 summer interns next year and 100 interns during the academic year. We are also working closely with colleges in trying to persuade them to grant academic credit with guidelines to insure that educational experience is indeed received. We are running into quite a bit of difficulty in the area of academic credit and welcome help from the members of the Board of Trustees.

A very unique part of the Atlanta Urban Corps is its Field and Education Staff. This summer this group of students staffers has structured seminars and visited with interns discussing urban problems as well as personal difficulties that may arise on the job. The Field and Education Staff should be an integral part of the Urban Corps from now on, since it has proved so beneficial for the summer operation. Typical examples of seminars have ranged from speakers such as Joe Boone, Civil Rights Leader in Atlanta; to Members of the Mayor's Staff working on Urban problems. We have tried to pick people from all spectrums of the urban scene to give interns a good idea of what our problems are in Atlanta and what is being done and what should be done about them.

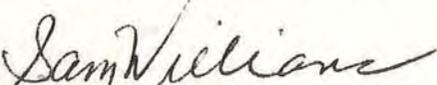
As an integral part of the internship program this summer, each student submitted a final report detailing his experiences and recommendations about the Urban Corps and about his agency or city department. These reports have been used by agencies and city government in obtaining grants and reviewing their administrative and program operation. Other reports have given the Board of Aldermen plans for urban renewal in Plunkettown and many private agencies have used these reports in raising funds and improving their operation. A catalogue of these reports is available for those persons interested and each report

is on file in the Urban Corps office.

The Atlanta Urban Corps has attained national prestige this first year due to the many people in Atlanta who were interested in its success. We have received unanticipated amounts of publicity from the local press to the nationally syndicated newspapers. We are the only program of our type which has been able to obtain support from the business community, educational community, the government, and public service community. The greatest factor for success now rests with the educational and governmental sector. I urge those members of the business group on our Board of Trustees and other influential members to try to persuade the new Mayor to support the Urban Corps as much as Mayor Allen has. Also, we are in desperate need of funds as usual. Members of the business community should help our student staff members in raising these funds.

The Urban Corps has proven that students can indeed contribute to solving the urban problems of Atlanta. We hope this is only the beginning and that further and more sophisticated cooperation can become evident between the college and its community in the near future. Mr. Ken Millwood, the new Director, will be in touch with you at a later date to outline specific plans and progress reports of the Urban Corps. We welcome any of you to visit our office at any time. We are located upstairs in the Old City Auditorium.

The Fall Program of the Atlanta Urban Corps is now in operation. Fifty-five (55) to sixty-five (65) interns will be placed this fall. As in the past, the sponsorship of Atlanta Urban Corps is shared by SREB and the City of Atlanta. The internships are to begin September 29, 1969, and run for twelve (12) weeks until December 19, 1969.

  
Sam Williams  
Director  
Atlanta Urban Corps