

editorial . . .

an introduction

By **SI SHERIDAN**
Editor

Why Spectator?

In recent years on this campus, many ill-fated student publications have made their entrance and then fallen by the wayside. The reasons for their downfall might deserve an investigation, but we are not concerned with the failures of the past.

We do share with the students who have attempted these ventures, however, the common conviction that a university community of the size and academic diversity of the University of Illinois should have an independent journal in which the views of its members can be presented and discussed.

The students of our generation have been called "silent," "affluent" and "gutless." The scholars of our universities have been charged with detaching themselves from the rest of society. These accusations are not without some truth — but the evidence for such charges is diminishing. The precarious balance of modern living demands that the thinkers accept their responsibilities, and exchange their ivory towers for podiums. This generation of teachers and students realizes this.

It is necessary, however, that more than the old theories must be echoed from the new platform. The ideas of our intellectual heritage must be reappraised and re-

applied in the light of our current dilemma. This task falls to the academic community, for it is here that the ideas of our society receive their most intelligent expression. We find, however, that there is no publication available to this campus community in which students and faculty can explain and defend their opinions. It is to this need that the **Spectator** addresses itself.

We present this journal with the hope that students, faculty and administration feel this need as we do, and will aid us in this venture by contributing essays