Letters to the Editorial Chairman will not be printed unless they are signed. Names will be withheld upon request.

**Editorial**

The following is an article from the Baker Letter and it is felt that there is sufficient interest to warrant its printing.

This issue of the Baker Letter is an election issue. However, it is not to remind you to get out of your book, rooms, trunks, etc. and vote. No, we are going to encourage apathy as a general attitude for all prospective voters. We believe apathy is the only solution to the many problems that appear at election time, because student government is a basically ineffective organization and we can't spare the time for sympathy. We don't say that student governments should be done away with entirely. Student government should be looked upon from a new viewpoint, as a reservation, so to speak, at MIT for those of us who feel the necessity to "play government." It looks good on the record too.

The man you think of voting for perhaps many things, but what can they really do? The people you elected last year promised just as much, if not more, and what positive accomplishments can they show? Ask yourself this: is student government a real government. It gets things done only when the Institute wants them done, not before. The Institute, on the other hand, gets things done when it wants them done. Whether or not student government wants it is considered irrelevant. Was family style meals recommended by House Committee or by the Institute? What's the use of WWS as its FM station when the students say yes or when the Institute says yes? The big changes come with or without student government, it's the little problems of the living groups with which student government should concern itself, but it doesn't.

It is ridiculous for us to vote on issues which are beyond the power of any candidate to change. Why waste our time and energy voting for idealistic candidates when it is reality that we are concerned with? Building the situation, we recommend apathy as the approach to the problem of choosing a candidate and voting. One government is as good as another when the best we can hope for is to have the situation remain the same, or perhaps get a bit worse. A Student government is like an energy sink; taking in hundreds of men-hours, and producing nothing but waste and noise. Why all this waste? Let those who complainingly demand the outlet of government realize its limitations, and accept the fact that their only purpose is to smooth out differences within the living groups by using common sense, and not always the book. Anyone can read the book. When the big problems arise, the groups will make themselves heard. Well along the path to apathy is the man who says why my petition should be under his nose. The lure wanted on signing nomination petitions be spent signing petitions to the Institute.

Only through our apathy can student government be made to realize one vote, please, and fee our time for more important things.

Please don't think that we are trying, by a sort of "soft sell" method, to get you steamed up and anxious to vote. Now if we wish to find something new to have to trace out all possible sources of information and finally after spending time and energy we discover what we wish to know. Sure all the information is available but where do we go to find it and just what is available. Is a list of all the sophomores and their home address available to any student and where do we get this list? Supposedly this list is available but where do we get the information? What procedure has to be gone through to put posters on bulletin boards, or stuff the mailboxes in the dorms? Can there be the information given the answers to these questions? Can there be time to find these answers? We leave it at MIT for the first time to be greeted by a large, cold, gray building. We should look at the Institute. We look about and see that ignorance of the multifarious activities and facts of the MIT community is the norm. We can learn little or nothing about the Institute to it remains a large, cold, gray building. We struggle to find the truth in the morning and leave at night glad to return to our friends and home. How can we identify ourselves with something which we know nothing about? Yet MIT contains a multitude of opportunities and facts of the MIT community, similar to a bulletin published by the University of Minnesota entitled "Your Book of Information." This book gives all the rules pertaining to students, lists all the activities, describes the services available, presents the academic regulations, etc. One comprehensive volume presents most of the facts pertinent to the student. While information now is available about the life at Tech, most of it either has to be sought out or it creeps from student to student. MIT definitely needs a handbook describing and listing the activities, rules, procedures, opportunities, services, etc. available at the Institute.

—Carl Swanson '60

**The kibitzer**

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