To The Editor:

In the editorial section of last week's newspaper a suggestion was made concerning the possibility of awards being given to "outstanding" members of activities, with the idea that these awards could be listed on transcripts. It is suggested that these citations be awarded by the Activities Development Board.

First, I would point out that there has been a large space for "Extracurricular Activities" on every employment application that I have ever seen.

Second, I believe that I speak for the majority of activity members when I say that we do not join the activities for recognition, we join because we enjoy working. We do not seek to be rewarded, in most cases, do we seek to "work up to leadership," as one of the Board's posters encourages us to do. We seek merely to do work we enjoy. It is with increasing apprehension that I watch student government continually reaching out and assuming ever greater control over the activities. Of course we do need a policing force to keep up to certain standards and to see that the hallowed name of MIT is not tarnished. But such alma as incorporating a chain, perhaps compulsory, for the leaders of student activities or trying to site worthy activity personnel for merit badges is putting activities into an academic atmosphere, as well as adding a note of conformity to all activity. And activities thrive on individuality.

It seems that student government has missed the whole point of activities. People who run radio stations, present movies or tinker with sports cars certainly do not do this for credit, recognition or education except in a vague sense. They putter for the fun of it.

It seems, at least to me, that boardsmen and Activities Council ought to take stock of their own motivations and see whether or not they are just trying to do "something" instead of something valiant. I would be the last one to suggest that Institute politicians are seeking merely to enhance their own political prestige and power, but I can say that continued and increased control of the actions of activities can do no good.

Dan Spiers, '63

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