Playing politics

From time to time it is charged that MIT's student government is so bureaucratic that anyone who wants a position can get one.

For the most part this is idle cynicism. The independence and responsibility bestowed by the student government requires that those who want to have extensive and organized government of their own. In general, whatever the Undergraduate Association has done at MIT has been extremely useful, if not downright essential. As examples of its tasks, witness the school's Junior From Weekends and the allocation of each year's $85,000 plus Activities Fund.

In the nineteenth century, Americans who considered themselves gentleman-soldiers, politics. They kept aloof, citing its corruption and meanness. Not until the Reconstruction Era did they realize how much of the revolution of politics and government was the cause of its abject condition. Viewed naively as a chaotic power: struggle, the administration of the country was left to the dogs.

For their student government, many schools have adopted the format of a government, they elect Senate, Houses of Representatives, Secretaries. Students, for them, is partly a rehearsal for future careers, and to that extent they are having an academic exercise. Here at Tech, where student government is needed to do things that wouldn't get done otherwise, we try to copy states or nations. The Undergraduate Association, with its unpretentious name, Institute, is tailor made to fit the powers and functions of the country was left to the dogs.

Student government is more than a game here. It needs determined, sober-minded individuals, who understand the students' interests. After all, they must keep aloof, citing its corruption and meanness. Not until the Reconstruction Era did they realize how much of the revolution of politics and government was the cause of its abject condition. Viewed naively as a chaotic power: struggle, the administration of the country was left to the dogs.

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Letters to the Tech

To the Editor:

We don't like to start the new year off by asking for the same thing that has riled so many of us in the past. But we have decided to air it now. It concerns the new elevator! As I am sure you have noticed, the old elevator is usually empty.

In the past few months I have noticed that the new elevator is not being used as much as it should be. I think that this is due to the fact that it is poorly maintained. The doors often stick and the buttons are not always visible. I think that this is a problem that needs to be addressed.

I also think that the new elevator should be cleaned more frequently. The floors are often dirty and the seats are stained. This is not acceptable and I believe that the administration should take steps to improve the situation.

I am writing to ask that you consider making these improvements. I think that the new elevator has a lot of potential and I believe that it could be a great asset to the campus if it were maintained properly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]