Inssomn Poll

When Inssomn first discussed the idea of having a Vietnam poll, one of the prime arguments in favor of the idea seemed to be that such a move would promote discussion, if not action, among the members of the student body. The main point was that Inssomn, as well as other groups, would sponsor speakers and debates before and after the poll, in order to provide this stimulation.

Have you heard any good speakers lately? The SID sponsored a debate in Kresge a few days ago, but as far as we know, it was completely unrelated to the Inssomn poll, or any other. It is, apparently, true that groups are sponsoring activities regarding the war: the debatable point is whether or not the poll had anything to do with it.

While we're on the subject, what ever happened to the results of said poll? To an outside observer, it appears that the old poll had died and that the new group carry the ball on this matter. While this is not a bad idea, there should have been enough continuity between the two groups to allow for rapid completion of this project.

It is interesting to note that the number of voters was approximately equal to the number of responses we received in our draft poll; our results are in this issue. We challenge Inssomn to democratize similar efficiency.

Vanishing Act

What ever happened to Tangent? One issue has come out so far this year; that was made up in the spring of 1967, and not published until the magazine folded later that year. Rumor has it that an issue is due in the near future; this is doubtful possibility at best. The history of Tangent is somewhat interesting in itself. Originally, it was published by The Tech. However, as it attained a measure of success, it became evident that the best course to follow would be to allow it to develop independently as the MIT literary magazine. At the moment, Tangent is facing staff problems, with little sign of relief in sight.

It does allow this publication to die, and not be replaced, would be tantamount to killing one of the few sparks of creativity visible on the MIT campus. This would be a disaster. The best solution would be to request new officers of the Activities Executive Board that this is a worthwhile place to begin their work for the coming year. The loss of this activity would definitely not be in the best interest of the community.

...Do Something

As anyone who was around the Institute last year will attest, Gripe Week was a tremendous success. Yet, it will still be banded a failure by a majority of students if they are not given some proof that action is being taken in the near future. The reason for this is simple. Many people criticize student government because it never accomplishes anything, but is largely a forum for debate. Gripe Week must be shown to be an instance of action, rather than just a group that I chair, M.I.T. Educational Policy (SCEP) Chairman. By a previous change in the Inssomn By-Laws, the SCEP chairman was also put on Executive Committee. Therefore, in assessing this leadership bill half-way between being bureaucratic and political and failed at both. It failed bureaucratically because the Chairman could not coordinate the sub-groups and bring them to bear on policy proposals. As the new chairman, Peter Harris '69, pointed out in his first report to the Executive Committee, the current leadership is too small and too weak to make it relevant and meaningful.

The past Chairman's leadership failed politically because it did not express itself. In effect, it meant that the leader...