What is education?

We cannot help being disappointed by the lukewarm support shown by the faculty for Dean Kenneth Wadleigh's proposal to establish a group to facilitate community participation in a reassessment of the role of the Institute as required by many current issues.

It has been said in these columns before, but perhaps the point has not hit home yet for some people: Issues at home and abroad, affecting not only the students outside the university, have converged at this time in and outside the university, have converged at this time in and outside the MIT community that members of the community recognize that the protection of their own interests demands that they participate in this reassessment or find the framework within which they are working changed by others. The universities will have to deal with these issues eventually; it will be easier to deal with them now than later. Problems which are not treated become worse instead of better.

Perhaps it was the result of the way in which the motion was presented, but we could not help being shocked by the narrowness of the proposal. The issue was the cancellation of classes, although some faculty members may have felt that the motion was contrived by students to avoid classroom experience. In fact, we feel that the motion was contrived by students to avoid classroom experience. This was essentially what the Institute that members of the community recognize that the protection of their own interests demands that they participate in this reassessment or find the framework within which they are working changed by others. The universities will have to deal with these issues eventually; it will be easier to deal with them now than later. Problems which are not treated become worse instead of better.

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