feedback

Tuition: 'incredible'

To the Editor:

An incredible tuition increase has been announced and it is now time for the students to react. The Administration has justified the 8.75 per cent increase because of inflation. But, has the student's ability to pay risen by 8.75 per cent since last year? Was this fact ever even considered?

The insensitivity of the Administration towards current student needs is further demonstrated in a statement made by Paul Gray while explaining the budget last year, "I'm not worried about the next five years, costs have risen swiftly since last year? Was this facet ever even considered?

There is no doubt that in the recent past, costs have risen swiftly and that MIT has tried vigorously to adjust to this problem, but a $350 increase in tuition is not the only answer. Tuition hikes have been fought successfully at other schools and there is no reason why MIT should be any different. We must make our voices heard.

Nino Pedrelli '78
Chairman, U.A. Committee of the Institute Budget

The General

Buster Keaton

with John Kiley at the Holt Kemp organ
Krags Auditorium 11 P.M. February 21, 1977
admission $1.50
75c with MIT or Wellesley I.D.
Tickets are available at the LSC office, at all newsstands, and in the Building 10 Lobby.

Grady defends tuition increase

To the Editor:

In your issue of January 28, 1977 you refer to the increase in the tuition rate over the past decade. The growth from $1900 in September 1966 to $4350 in 1977—a factor of 2.3—is indeed startling.

However, most of this growth reflects continuous declines in the value of the dollar caused by inflation; there has been virtually no real growth in the tuition rate, and tuition still covers only about half of the per-student cost of an MIT education, as it did in 1966 and in 1956.

The attached graph shows, through the year beginning in September 1975 the tuition rate in nominal dollars (Curve A), in 1975 dollars using the GNP deflator to inflate prior years' figures (Curve B), and in 1975 dollars using median family income to inflate. (Census data, wage orrent 35-54) as the basis for inflating prior years' figures. Comparison of these curves shows that while nominal tuition has grown in recent years at a compound rate of 8.3 per cent per year, it has grown much more rapidly in real terms. More precisely, between 1966 and 1975 tuition grew by only $500 (1975 dollars) when the GNP deflator is used to correct for inflation, and was virtually unchanged in its relationship to median family income.

Paul E. Gray '54

The information provided in the above chart was included in Chancellor Gray's letter.

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IT'S ANYTHING AT ALL LIKE ICE, NINE. WHY DO YOU ASK?