We at MIT take Independent Activities Period (IAP) for granted. As
we celebrate the 1977-78 IAP season and begin to carry them out, it
is worthwhile to remember that IAP is a relatively recent addition
to the academic calendar at MIT, and that most students have not
adopted such a system. That leads to an obvious moral: you've got it,
but waste it.

But this is not to say that the month must be spent developing a fluence
in a foreign language or finishing some sort of significant research pro-
ject. There are legitimate IAP projects. Nor must it be spent in a library or laboratory. The decision of
not to...