Students can effect policy decisions

At MIT today, there is a basic feeling of powerlessness among the student body. Because of their position at the bottom of the MIT power structure, students feel helpless whenever the administration or faculty considers any proposal which could affect student concerns. This feeling of helplessness was particularly evident during the recent occupation of MIT's administration building. Students who were asked to join the occupation or said they would join the boycott but didn’t think it would have any effect on the administration's decision.

This attitude is far from true. True, students are almost never empowered to make the final decisions—a situation which should change—but students do have quite a bit of effective power nonetheless. Students occupy a central position at MIT; this school is here supposedly to benefit students and prepare them to serve successful functions in society. If students consider a proposal not beneficial to them, the administration had better listen.

The MIT administration does listen, although it doesn’t always agree with students. The administration isn’t so concerned with student groups who enjoy seeing students suffer. In fact, many members of the current MIT administration have been champions of student causes. President William saltsworth is a strong supporter of student protesters in the Sixties. Chancellor Gray was an early supporter of free speech and student life. The administration had better listen.

We still have an obligation to fight the administration. Rights are not inherently present, but must be fought for. A few students chose to speak out. We need more students to speak out. The administration had better listen.

As for student groups who enjoy seeing students suffer, MIT’s administration is concerned with student groups who enjoy seeing students suffer. In fact, many members of the current MIT administration have been champions of student causes. President William saltsworth is a strong supporter of student protesters in the Sixties. Chancellor Gray was an early supporter of free speech and student life. The administration had better listen.

How it feels to be ripped off

By John Midlir

Arriving at work one morning, my first friend of nine years in from Seattle. He is a student at Seattle's Pacific Lutheran University, and we have a common interest in the Cambridge police department and the problems of the Cambridge police force. We were both of the opinion that the Cambridge police were not very encouraging. They wrote all the information down in this big black book and said that stolen motorcycles usually turn up, eventually. One officer told me that there was a 90 percent chance of recovery, but it was not sound very optimistic.

I walked out of the police station feeling that I could not do any better than the officer. I can describe it is “ripped off.” In fact, I felt as if I had been ripped off that I had ever felt in my life. I would have felt ripped off under any circumstances for losing my motorcycle cut a little deeper. You see, when I was 13 years old I worked all summer in a ...