Politics and practicality
make strange bedfellows

(Continued from page 4)

The best thing about D.C., however, is its inhabitants. As far as I can tell, everyone works for the government. The closest thing there is to private industry is the lobbying groups. The government operates under a set of rules parallel to those of thermodynamics. The laws of thermodynamics have been summarized as: you can't win, you can't break even, and you can't get out of the game. In politics, the rules are: you can't win, you can't get anything accomplished, and the only way out of the game is getting thrown out.

Want an example? Last Thursday the Nuclear Regulatory Commission held a briefing to release the latest in a series of unheeded warnings about Three Mile Island. At the briefing, one commissioner very loudly disagreed with most of the report. He ended up looking as though he was trying to cover something up.

Another commissioner agreed with much of the report, and so had little to say; he came out looking either stupid or uninterested or both: not only that, but he's getting canned shortly. See what I mean? You can't win, you can't break even...

Despite all of this, or perhaps because of it, I intend to work in government after graduation. People often wonder why I would do such a thing. One of my professors explained it away as being a temporary neurosis. Another theory holds that it relates in some way to the fact that I was born in DC. Personally, I'm not sure exactly what my motives are. It probably has something to do with why I came to MIT. You see, I find both MIT and Washington DC highly amusing places, and I find it easier to withstand pressure when I am amused (as opposed to being frantic, as I am at The Tech). What it all boils down to, I guess, is my own view of politics. Government, or so I believe, is the last resort of those who need to be entertained.

Translators
Needed to translate technical documents into French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, etc. Please call 944-8486 or write P.O. Box 450, Reading, MA 01867.

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INVITES YOU TO AN INFORMAL RECEPTION
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PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, 111 MEMORIAL DRIVE
Members of the Faculty, Administration, Dean's Offices
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9 AM TO 6 PM LOBBY 7

The Educational Studies Program is looking for people:
* to teach courses in anything and everything, to high school students on Saturdays between February and May
* to be mentors to bright elementary school students from ages 7 through 11
* to help design projects in engineering for grades 4-6
* to work with the Massachusetts State Science Fair
* to care about education in greater Boston.

For more information, please call or write before February 15th.

The subway is also quite expensive. Standard fare is fifty cents. The district, however, as a cleverly disguised way of promoting public transportation, has decided to charge special rush hour fares from 6:30 pm to 6:30 am. There's only one catch — the rush hours fares are generally higher than the regular fifty cent fare. Some friends of mine in Silver Spring, Maryland estimated that it would cost more than three dollars per day to commute into Washington, and take about two hours. As I said, it's a really well-disguised way of encouraging people not to use their cars to get to work.

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