To the Editor.

It was with considerable dismay that I read Steven Solnick's article on the front page of the March 18 Tech concerning the 1980-81 student budget. According to the article, the room and portion of the student budget is being increased only 4% relative to the current year, principally because under the new dining plan the board cost will be "heavily subsidized" by the Institute. Fine. What about the 47% of us who live off campus?

March 18 Tech regarding the room and board allowance doesn't cut it. One might argue that undergraduates who live off campus are more likely to leave MIT if their cost of living rises more than 4% while the dorm room rates stay the same. The 4% increase seems a great deal less than the consumer price index, which is expected to increase about 6% this year. With the consumer price index currently increasing at an annual rate of 18%, a 4% increase in the room and board allowance doesn't cut it.

In the past, the MIT administration has appeared to listen to students through joint, student-faculty investigation committees. However, these committees are generally handpicked by the administration and their decisions are often completely ignored. The committee to choose the new DSA recommended three candidates. After these candidates were rejected by the administration's upper echelons, the committee was dissolved. Paul Gray and Constantine Simonides picked the new Dean themselves. All but one of the students on the Dining Review were vehemently against forced commons. These opinions were again ignored.

Once again we are here with an administration bent on achieving its aim despite nearly unanimous opposition from the students. A move of the entire East Campus and Senior House populations to west campus has been proposed. Perhaps the student body's protests would not be ignored if they continued a real threat to the administration. We are not powerless. If our position is not considered thoughtfully we will write to all incoming freshmen discouraging them from matriculating. We will telephone prominent alumni asking them to withhold their donations. We urge the residents of East Campus and Senior House to picket all upcoming alumni fund raising dinners. Maybe some visible protest will force the administration to listen.

Eric Oeklers
East Campus President

Eric Hughes
East Campus Treasurer

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Opinion

Feedback

Off-campus residents ignored

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