Students as money sources

(continued from page 4)

Sure you do. The really sad thing is that you're absolutely right. The great faceless, brainless wad that is the student body of MIT will just shrug and say "Ahh... it's only $7400" or "Well, it's a good investment, and it's not my money anyway." There will be no tuition riot, and no breaking of windows or shouting of slogans. Three weeks into the term it will all be forgotten. Business as usual.

The only thing that will happen is that the percentage of malcontents will go up, and you gentlemen need not be concerned with them. After all, as you well know by now, if you ignore them they will always just go away. There are always new faceless people to replace them.

I think that you gentlemen should concern yourselves with these malcontents, instead of simply hoping that they'll just get off of your balance sheets. They leave a feeling that this concrete and steel toy of yours is not worth the hassle, pain, money, and back of student life. I fully believe that this greatly increasing number of disenfranchised alumni and disgruntled dropouts is far more excessive in terms of your toy's vaunted "academic prestige" than any number of flashy garden parties can buy back. After all, what's possible is a school that specializes in chasing off its undergraduates and producing "survivors" who hate it? Sure, you can always replace us with new, fresh money sources to fill your dorms and classrooms, but if that's all you're doing here then I think you should quit calling this place a school.

If I were you gentlemen, I would quietly see to it that the phrase "no one shall be denied an education for financial reasons" be removed from your recruiting hype. I'm not sure that you care, but your official policies exclude more people all the time. Do you know what we malcontents do? We take our money and go find another school. We leave, gentlemen, with an amazingly bad taste in our mouths from this huge lumbering tax writeoff of yours.

We don't smash windows or shout slogans, we just go quietly. But just come and ask us for money and you'll find out how we feel.

I am reminded of the secretary who once said to me, "MIT would be a great place to work if it weren't for the students." You gentlemen seem to be working towards that ideal as quickly as you can. But when we are gone, just who will you be running this precious toy of yours for?

Scott Griffith '82

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