Editorial

Honest answers

February has once again been marred by the announcement of an exorbitant tuition increase. Compliments of the high-inflation, energy inflation, and the importation of oil, the effort needed to locate non-MIT financial aid will remain futile for many students because outside funds merely displace money that would have been received from MIT itself. The effort needed to locate non-MIT financial aid will remain futile for many students because outside funds merely displace money that would have been received from MIT itself.

Leonard Gallagher of the Financial Aid Office admits that more efforts should be made to pair students with outside scholarships. Rather than assuming this responsibility, however, the Financial Aid Office has chosen simply to monitor the efforts made by a small number of students to provide such services.

The Center for Alternative Scholarship Help (CASH) was recently established under the auspices of the Undergraduate Association. Its goal is to help students start trying to locate outside sources of financial aid. Whereas response from students interested in CASH’s services has so far been promising, the Center is not yet sufficiently enthusiastic of administrators. The most of nearly any file folders in the UA Office that should hold CASH’s scholarship information may be far more numerous in the UA Office than it seems.

The Financial Aid Office could offer the fledgling program much-needed assistance by changing its program regarding classification of outside scholarship money. Non-MIT scholarships are considered part of a student’s personal resources, and so are subtracted from MIT aid grants just as savings or summer job earnings would be. Changing this policy so that less than one hundred percent of an outside award is subtracted from MIT financial aid would encourage students to seek non-MIT scholarships, and would eventually reduce MIT’s aid burden.

CASH may prove to be one of those wonderful ideas that never work, but the Financial Aid Office is obligated to accept this experiment — a student effort to fulfill Institute responsibilities — more than any other.

Getting outside aid

The combination of rising tuition and decreasing availability of student loans dictates that MIT students increasingly turn to outside sources for financial aid. But, as the accompanying article illustrates, the effort needed to locate non-MIT financial aid will remain futile for many students because outside funds merely displace money that would have been received from MIT itself. The effort needed to locate non-MIT financial aid will remain futile for many students because outside funds merely displace money that would have been received from MIT itself.

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The Tech

Tuition complaints ignored

To the Editor

Undergraduate tuition at MIT has increased by 248 percent from 1970-71 to 1980-81. The percentage rate of inflation during this time period was 77 percent. Therefore, tuition will increase again by 19 percent to $7400. Many of us complained to the Academic Council, but none of them care about an individual student’s woes. Director of Student Financial Services Jack Frawley ’44, when asked about students who may be forced to withdraw from MIT due solely to high expenses, said, “That’s a tragedy. We expect students’ parents to pay their share.” An article on President Gray in the Technology Review stated, “For at least 50 years the difference between the cost of an MIT education and its price has been 3.5 to 2.2.” What’s his point? President Gray told the Alumni Council, “It is every student of this year who has received through the institution a hidden scholarship which was roughly equivalent to what he or she paid in tuition.” In another article, on finances at MIT, Director of Finance John Currie avowed “continues increased in tuition and room and board charges, keeping pace with inflation.” The Administrators at MIT think we are here to support the Institute. It is here to support us.

The Tech

Tuition increases must stop

To the Editor

The regular raising of tuition has become a tradition at President Gray’s desk. Despite financial pressures. President Gray said that “the need for student aid funds is another factor of tuition.” Basic economics will tell anybody that raising tuition is not the way to cure those with financial troubles, in fact it will merely put more problems onto MIT financial difficulties. And more importantly, the article ends with a quote from President Gray: “Despite financial pressures we are determined to uphold the tradition of MIT that talented students with the capacity to do MIT-level work will not be denied an MIT education because of lack of money.”

This ending quote is cleverly designed to give everyone reading the article the feeling that Paul Gray and MIT are constantly in the face of horrible financial pressure, making sure that all who oppose him are given the opportunity. Such clever use of language has not been seen to Tech, Talk, or MIT. And after reading such biased literature, I can only question the future of the political appointments that will come from. Will we feel pity or anger when this or that will feel pity for a place that attempted to cover up for the current financial management that we directly felt.

Name Withheld by Request

ACWSI only advises

To the Editor;

I would like to reply to Mr. von Zelowitz’s Article of February 13, entitled “Focusing on the Trivial.” It appears to me that we can not properly read the original article appearing in The Tech. The opinion expressed in the article was not a statement from our group, following the original controversy. We agreed to add this item to our agenda. I must emphasize that this is not a major concern of the committee. Rather we are currently involved in assessing the housing situation of undergraduates and the services of the Medical Department. I would be appreciative if, in the future, Mr. von Zelowitz would research his facts a little more closely. The comment made by Dr. Dresbush is followed in the same article by the statement of Dean Heintz that “ACWSI always try to encourage its members and its board, but its view does not have to be followed.” While agreeing with Mr. von Zelowitz on the importance of the original issue, I must nevertheless disagree that his article is both biased in its use of language and fails to reflect the comments made.

Suzanne von Rosenberg ’83

Student Representative, ACWSI

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