Try the following experiment. Take a recent high school graduate, probably male, sixteen to nineteen years of age. Place in an open field, inject with greasy chicken or roast beef, and after a couple of speeches, expose to hordes of rushing after-prom-photos. Leave unattended for one week, then force to make critical decisions on housing and courses with little or no guidance.

Provide self-criticism and a challenging bureaucracy. Extract large sums of money as frequent intervals. Solicits opinions and blatantly ignore them. Limit social interactions to the minimum necessary for survival, if not slightly less. Continue for about four years.

The expected result is not a contented alumnus. While somewhat ex- aggerated, this is the general scenario representing a few MIT students. The Institute seemingly puts little effort into insuring that students leave with a lasting affection for the school. Throwing in a free dinner during spring term senior year hardly appeases most graduates. For some reason, however, some students leave MIT and become loyal alumni, contributing regularly to the Institute both financially and personally.

The number of active alumni has not changed much over the years. The 1979-80 Alumni Association report shows that participation in class reunions and Alumni Officers' Conferences has remained fairly steady over the past five years. Membership in alumni clubs has leveled off after growing during the mid-1970's. The Alumni Fund received a record amount of money from a record number of contributors in 1979-80.

Not everyone succeeds to the Institute's well-disguised charms, of course. Statistics indicate that 23,000 alumni have made donations to MIT in 1979-80 is an impressive one, the figure represents less than one-third of the 71,800 alumni alive at the time. Still, any positive response is sur- prising given MIT's almost nonexistent efforts at promoting loyalty and affection.

So why do so many graduates come back for Technology Day to see people they barely know? It is true, I am not yet an alumna of MIT, but expect to become one in June. I understand why people donate to the Institute even while paying off student loans, for some reason, however, some students leave MIT and return after growing during the mid-1970's. The Alumni Fund received a record amount of money from a record number of contributors in 1979-80.

Perhaps I will become an Educational Counselor. If so, I would want MIT to be in a free dinner during spring term senior year hardly appeases most MIT students. If MIT students leave with a lasting affection for the school. Throwing in a free dinner during spring term senior year hardly appeases most graduates. So why do so many graduates come back for Technology Day to see people they barely know? It is true, I am not yet an alumna of MIT, but expect to become one in June. I understand why people donate to the Institute even while paying off student loans, for some reason, however, some students leave MIT and return after growing during the mid-1970's. The Alumni Fund received a record amount of money from a record number of contributors in 1979-80. However, people who didn't register wear buttons saying I won't go"; in fact, they should be saying, "They won't find me." Of course, it's a lot easier to oppose a draft than a registration. The draft conjures up images of fresh- faced 17-year-old boys from the Midwest being shuf- fled into planes to kill innocent peaceful Asians not much older than themselves. In this sense, the horror of Vietnam is still very much with us. Registration, on the other hand, brings to mind pesty-faced clerks flying sheets of long columns of numbers, or long lines at the state motor vehicle department. As we say in the journalism field, the draft is easier than registration.

I am not claiming that registration and the draft are totally unrelated: if you want to have a draft, you first have to get people to register for it. When listen- ing to the anti-registration/anti-draft rhetoric, however, be sure to listen to what they're really protesting. Participation rates are always present while good points appear only in retrospect. Despite all its inadequacies, however, MIT somehow provided me with a base to build upon and the opportunity to learn. I am not the same person I was three and one-half years ago, and MIT must be given some share of the credit for that. While I have not been able to improve my situation, the Institute is an unparalleled gathering of intellect, both proven and potential. I am not just an alumna of MIT, but expect to become one in June. I understand why people donate to the Institute even while paying off student loans, for some reason, however, some students leave MIT and return after growing during the mid-1970's. The Alumni Fund received a record amount of money from a record number of contributors in 1979-80. However, people who didn't register wear buttons saying I won't go"; in fact, they should be saying, "They won't find me." Of course, it's a lot easier to oppose a draft than a registration. The draft conjures up images of fresh- faced 17-year-old boys from the Midwest being shuf- fled into planes to kill innocent peaceful Asians not much older than themselves. In this sense, the horror of Vietnam is still very much with us. Registration, on the other hand, brings to mind pesty-faced clerks flying sheets of long columns of numbers, or long lines at the state motor vehicle department. As we say in the journalism field, the draft is easier than registration.

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