feedback
Committee seeks to mitigate tuition hike

To the Editor:

We, the members of the Tuition Riot Committee, would like to reiterate our demands to the administration. The administration has estimated that the tuition and equity levels will rise about 9 percent. This is simply too much. After a tuition increase of 40 percent in two years, MIT students and their families simply cannot bear another real dollar increase. As one student said on our Lobby 7 pillar poster, "I’m a sophomore and I’d like to stay at MIT. If my financial aid were to be cut 10 percent, I could no longer afford to stay, it’s that simple." Another student noted, "I was a first-time voter last year, and it bothers me — ROTC pays it all. Of course, I have to spend 4 to 6 years killing people,..."

MIT may soon be restricted to only the very rich or those students funded by the Department of Defense.

We want to improve the situation. Instead of just flaming in The Tech, we would like to meet to get sound solutions to mitigate the situation. We feel that there are areas in which MIT is wasting money, such as overcrowthing of dormitories and the sheer size of its administration. We are willing to help MIT as well, by putting in more federal aid for students who are able to get accepted to selective schools.

As a first step, we will bring this topic up for discussion at the Yale College Council, a conference of Ivy Group student governments at Yale University today. To gain national attention, we are making the riot a more serious occasion, as described in the following letter to possible participants:

"For as long as anyone can remember, the students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have gathered together in March after the announcement of the tuition increase to hold their annual tuition riot. This year’s riot is especially significant. It comes at a time when national policies are threatening to make education even less accessible to the American student than it is now. In addition, this will be the last opportunity for MIT students to riot while their tuition is still under $10,000.

"For the above reasons, the 1983 Annual Spontaneous Tuition Riot will be held in a more serious vein. We plan to have distinguished guests speak to the MIT student body on topics related to federal support for education and financial aid. In particular, we wish to focus attention on the plight of the talented student whose family income is at or below the national average. This student is losing not only his opportunity to receive an education and a challenging job, but also his chance to contribute to a society which desperately needs him.

"Our country is in a difficult position. We find ourselves deeply involved in a technology race, a race in which success could yield a better standard of living for all Americans. We also face a shortage of engineers, the very resource that enables us to compete. Despite our nation’s great need to educate these engineers, the President is proposing drastic changes that would cut the life-line of student aid.

"As MIT President Norse reported in his annual report, ‘If the trend is not stopped, many bright, low-income college students will lower their eyes from distant and promising horizons.’ As a result, the ability to enter many advanced fields, including engineering, will be restricted to a select few. Surely Mr. Reagan does not expect America to protect its technological foundation is constructed rather arbitrarily, from a small fraction of the population. The technology race must be manned by today’s brightest students, not simply today’s rich students, or the entire country will face the economic consequences.

"We hope you will share your concern by attending our rally on March 4 at 3:00 on the steps of the MIT Student Center and in Kresge Auditorium. You will be joined by a sizable percentage of MIT’s student body. With your help, we can demonstrate the seriousness of this crisis to the entire nation.

"If you would like to help us organize the March 4 rally, please call Rich Cowan, chairman, at 5-5845, or leave a message at the East Campus desk. We have already reserved Kruege Oval and Auditorium for the occasion, and we are in contact with the office of several possible speakers. Watch the UA News and LSC slides for further developments, and check out Lobby 7 for pillar posters on identifying waste at MIT. We hope to hear from you, and you can bet that the administration will hear from us.

Rich Cowan ’84
Chairman
Michael Dawson ’83
Larry Koldoyne ’83
David Chang ’84
Kai-Mu Yi ’83
Sheena Murphy ’84
Robert L. Krawitz ’86

Students’ needs ignored

(Continued from page 4)

While these students train; why is it tolerated here?

6,000 students have found this painfully driven home — many of whom could have taken 6,000 first term this year, not only lacking in more balanced computer use during the year, but also fewer unhappy people in general. Since 6,000 is a prerequisite for practically every course in the EE/CS department dealing with software engineering, and since many of these courses are offered only on alternate terms, this means that many people will be forced to postpone taking certain subjects for an entire year. The department has seen this situation evolving for a very long time now. It has refused to aid by increasing its computational resources. Instead, it tries ever harder to discourage anyone from even thinking of majoring in a department which seems actively hostile to its students.

I came to MIT partly because of its world prominence in electrical engineering and computer science. It is becoming more and more clear that this prominence is a cruel hoax as far as MIT’s undergraduates perception is concerned. MIT’s graduate and research programs establish its position in the field — while undergraduates are subjected to faculty and equipment shortages that are unheard of at any of the several other schools in its class.

Leonard N. Foner ’86

Claims reporting irresponsible

To the Editor:

Your reporting in the article of February concerning the proposal by the Dean’s Office to reassign the resident director of each dormitory and the sheer size of MIT’s administration (the likes of which have never been seen anywhere but The Tech. Although The Boston Herald does come to mind as comparable) is the ability to make vague, unsupported accusations, instructions, and non-possible innuendos a prerequisite to being a writer for The Tech? It would seem so. Is it so difficult to get all the facts before you print untrue and slanderous remarks? Your reporter did not bother to contact Random Hall’s R.O. or Room Assignment Chairmen in order to verify the allegation of “ghosting” or anti-rush. Neither did the editor’s ap-

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