Exorbitant tuition hikes unjustified

The MIT Corporation last month approved the 10.3 percent increase in tuition recommended by President Paul E. Gray '54 and the Academic Council. Undergraduate housing fees will also increase by an average of 9.9 percent, and food service contracts will cost 8.7 percent more next year. The estimated total undergraduate student budget for 1983-84, largely for calculating financial aid, represents an increase of 9.6 percent over this year.

MIT should not need to increase student charges by pay or leave. As more are forced to choose the latter, the quality will suffer while students and then begin their working careers. Corporations show no consideration of those who must independently pay for financial aid requiring MIT to draw support for needy students in inflation have been varied and convincing: cutbacks in federal food, and housing. Exorbitant increase in tuition recommended by President Paul E. Gray '54 and a 17.2 percent increase in student budget, compared with those of the last three years. The most devastating jump was that announced in 1981, a 19.4 percent increase in tuition and a 17.2 percent increase in student budget, compared to a 13.5 percent increase in the price index. The exorbitant annual increase, although expected, is not justified. MIT should not need to increase student charges by more than the increase in the cost of providing education, food, and housing.

The MIT administration's excuses for fee hikes in excess of inflation have been varied and convincing: cutbacks in federal financial aid requiring MIT to draw support for needy students from already overburdened general funds, reduction in outside funding for research forcing MIT to draw additional income from other sources, and competition for talented young faculty members prompting MIT to find money for higher salaries. Such compelling arguments merely hide the Institute's committed to increasing its student body, which in turn will fair share of the budgetary burden for many years beyond their stay at MIT. The Academic Council, the president, and the Corporation are convinced that the charges of those who must use these services while students and then begin their working lives many thousands of dollars in debt.

The administration is certainly in a position to continue bleeding its students. Students are faced with a clear choice: pay or leave. As more are forced to choose the latter, the quality and diversity of the MIT community will likewise bleed away.

To the Editor:

We have stood silent for too long. Having read about the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Debate in The Tech [March 29], we have decided to voting. The arguments of the test-ban proponents were well intentioned, but nevertheless naive. One remark by Dr. Caldicott so incensed us that we felt obliged to comment.

"Very few Americans use... Voting should be compulsory," said Dr. Helen Caldicott, national president of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Since "nothing moves a politician more than his own political career", people have tremendous power to influence their leaders to pass the test ban treaty, she noted" in The Tech article.

Praises MIT radio station

To the Editor:

The best in new wave, rock, and pop... Personalities who sound human instead of cloned... Weekdays from 2 to 2am... Sleepwalking," "The Late Rider... "The Beat, Beat, Beat Show." "The Crazy Quilt," "Aural Fixations" with the lovely Sue Salton, and the "Mystery Girls." What? Apathy. Ignorance. I don't know what the problem is... If there is a better radio station in greater Boston, you find it. But I'm telling you it's located right here on the MIT campus and called WMBR at 88.1 MHz on your FM dial... Tune in. Turn it on. A radio station as good as WMBR is a terrible thing to waste.

Leonard Murray

Feedback

Dr. Caldicott justify mandatory voting? Perhaps she would like mandatory voting for a mandatory consideration - the Soviet Union has a "democracy" much like that. Many citizens in our country choose not to vote. However those that do take the time to vote must be concerned about the issues. Since they are concerned about the issues, they must be informed about the issues. A concerned and informed vote is much more valuable than the vote of an apathetic and uninformed individual who was forced to cast his vote for political candidates and not necessarily that of the rest of the country. Letters to the Editor are written by members of the MIT community and represent the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the TECH staff and represent the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the rest of the staff.

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Dispute Caldicott's views

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