To paraphrase Woody Allen, there are two types of academic short-term solutions to the “overcrowding problem:” the miserable ones and the horrible ones. The one the Faculty Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) is considering and the one that I recommend to the faculty is only a miserable one.

The CEP will recommend a limitation on the number of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) students by subjecting would-be majors to some form of restriction, perhaps entrance exams to MIT, in all likelihood an ill-conceived entrance exam.

My suggestion — this is a miserable proposal. Even if the proposal discourages only a few potential majors from coming to MIT, the next freshman class will likely have some 350 to 400 eventual EECS majors. The department, however, thinks 250 is the ideal number. A limitation on restrictions via the entrance exam would mean restrictions on majors for the next class. This means perhaps allowing only 300 to 400 students to be admitted to MIT or to the rest of EECS. Those accepted by EECS would be unable to major in EECS, with means 50 to 100 students or more for the next class. This means perhaps allowing only 300 to 400 Electrical Engineering/computer science majors for the next class. The department will likely have some 350 to 400 even without restrictions.

Editor's note: Joseph J. Romm, a student representative to the Faculty Committee on Educational Policy, presents his opinion.

Faculty should not approve either plan

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READ Orwell's prophetic novel during Christmas break.
PARTICIPATE in IAP program on the book and the year.

Discussions will include:

- Big Brother & Psychotechnology
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- Sexuality and family relations

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IAP meeting: 9:00 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9 in 26-414.
Numbers 657 and 5103 in your IAP Final Guide.

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