Student perspective on committees is needed
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members of the CAP having a vote on such matters and being privi-

leged to the confidential in-
formation that is discussed.

The potential for abuse is
great. I have been heard about
previous CAP student representa-

tives who have advised down the
Infinite Corridor telling friends who
suggest them — and their pe-
ers — have failed. Such per-
sons should be kicked off the
committee for violating the trust
of their position.

I contend that the need for the
student perspective — and the
source of student information —
is even greater. There is a seri-
ous gap between the students and
faculty, and faculty often lack in-
sight to understand a problem
that a student is facing. I was
told that last year a faculty mem-
ber on a major institute commit-
tee was shocked to find out that
MIT has dormitories.

Last spring the CAP was dis-
cussing a readmission petition,
and a faculty member commit-
ted that the feelings a student was
describing led him to think that
MIT has coed dormitories.

The number of faculty mem-
bers present were usually greater
than the number of students
present, and the students often voted on
different sides of the question.

I feel that it is extremely
important to have students
there to remind the faculty that
just because a student has a 3.0
average he is not a "bow-wow,"
that a student also has three pas-
sing grades in addition to his fail-
ing grades, and that completing
freshman year with no warnings
does constitute one year of ac-
cademic acceptable performance.

The student input on the issues
before the CAP is also impor-
tant. Students often can offer

a different perspective from that of
the faculty and can sometimes of-
fer solutions that are acceptable to
the committee.

It is extremely easy to believe
that students cannot have a sig-
nificant impact on the attitudes
and policies of MIT towards the
students. The Institute can be ex-
tremely inept in developing and
implementing policy decisions
that have a major impact on stu-
dents.

On the other end of the spec-
trum — in the personal inter-
action with students — MIT can
be kinder than almost any other
institution. The services on a
one-to-one basis are superb.

Students should realize that
through undergraduate represen-
tatives to Institute Committees
students can help shape the poli-

cies that will affect them. Faculty
and administrators are often very
willing to listen to a thought-out
proposal. Through committees
like the CAP students can and
must have an impact on the deci-
sions that will shape their educa-
tion.

A few "quit tips"

Hide all ashtrays, matches,
etc.

Lay in supplies of sugarless
gum, carrot sticks, etc.

Drink lots of liquids, but pass
up coffee & alcohol.

Tell everyone you're quitting for
the day.

When the urge to smoke hits,
take a deep breath, hold it for
10 seconds, & release it
slowly.

Exercise to relieve the tension.

Try the "buddy system," and
ask a friend to quit too.

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