us military strikes were small, direct

Barred in last week’s news about the rock market fiasco was the well-planned and decisive action taken by President Reagan in the Persian Gulf. In retaliation for an Iranian attack on a US-flagged tanker, the Navy destroyed two Iranian oil platforms and bombed a third platform to de- nounce radar and communications equipment.

What is important about this event is not the fact that response was taken against Iran for its outrageous behavior in the world community, but rather the manner with which the response was taken. Under the leadership of Ronald Reagan, the United States has matured greatly, and is now learning to use force prudently and effectively.

Throughout the history of the United States, the use of the military has been an all or nothing proposition. Even in the Civil War, a conflict which brought on the breakup of the concept of unconditional surrender was carried through with a frightening vengeance. This type of behavior spilt over into the twentieth century. At first, the United States would stand unflinchingly behind isolationist policies, and then, with the western world on the brink of disaster, would be forced into a massive war.

This behavior seems not unlike that of the student, who, after spending all night on a homework assignment, does not have the energy to begin the next assignment until the night before it is due. This endless cycle of “we last saw,” is not possible until all writing until all writing is required and a few storms of unfavorable public opinion has to be weathered.

Grenada exemplifies the beginning of this metamorphosis. Grenada was destined to become a staging area for Cuban and Soviet missile facing in the region. But Reagan, unlike his mitred predecessor, had the courage and the vision to act quickly.

Carter’s legacy from this intelligence was to act early in Nicaragua in a fuming sense in the western hemisphere. Reagan, on the other hand, saw Grenada for what it was and quickly removed it. Being unpracticed in the art of this type of surgery, the operation seemed messy. The affair was, perhaps, a little heavy handed, but the learning process had begun.

The next phase of this evolution came in the conflict with Libya. This was a test of the facts of the fact of the laws.

Why IAP group “rocks the boat”

To the Editor:

We of the IAP policy committee thank The Tech for its article on the changes we are considering with respect to future IAPs (“MIT considers IAP changes”). Oct. 26. You have helped institute a lively discussion. The questions must have input from all affected people at MIT. We have good student representation on the policy committee, but we welcome contributions from everyone.

David Taraszewicz’s article was a fair representation of our position. But many of your correspondents have misinterpreted the situation in two respects.

First, we believe that the survey was not really broad in its scope. People who work on IAP, and each near-social visits as going to one’s former high school. His definition of nonproductive activities was really very narrow, and yet it included a great deal of student time. What we all of us, have to decide is whether or not this situation is a problem. IAP is taken seriously by undergraduates in the departments of biology and chemistry as a way to get the most out of their courses, and many students are getting only eight months worth. IAP is a very popular time. The faculty gets to work on research, papers, and projects. Graduate students and seniors work on their times full time. Other undergraduates enjoy the break from classes.

Our belief is that, should we rock the boat? One reason is that two in- terest groups have been asked for their opinions. One group is that of the parents and the other who pay tuition bills. We know that everyone else at MIT is interested in our few re- quirements, but will the people who pay have less for their money? The other group is composed of employers, who have criticized us for allowing MIT students to graduate with- out, some of them feel, sufficient training.

Not all those that IAP policy committee will be affected. We of the IAP policy committee want to rock the boat.

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Barbara A. Mosi, Mark Ramen, ’87, David Sleser, ’87, Julie Chong, ’89, Ricardo Rodrigo, ’91.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

BUSINESS STAFF

PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

IAP survey results don’t reflect student views

Editor’s Note: The Tech re- ceived a copy of the following letter addressed to the MIT Inde- pendent Activities Period Policy Committee.

To the members of the MIT IAP Policy Committee:

We, the undersigned, would like to comment on recent proposals to change IAP and on the issues raised in the October 20 issue of the Tech.

First, we believe that the survey was not sufficiently reflective of the normative expectations of the IAP undergraduates. Students who frequently asked for money were not included among them. The survey came in the conflict with Libya. This was a test of the fact of the laws.

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