The Academic Council's recent approval of a mandatory $1,150 meal plan for residents of the four dining dorms with dining halls convincingly demonstrates the administration's contempt for students' interests. Simply put, the approved plan has no benefits for students. There is only one suitable response: protest.

Attend the next Undergraduate Association Council meeting and ask to reverse this decision.

The next time you check your e-mail, send a letter to the administration and ask to reverse this decision.

When several similar proposals were introduced by the House Dining Committee last spring, each was withdrawn after being severely criticized by students. The House Dining Committee's deliberations were remarkably open. The discussion was conducted in apparent secrecy, but a loud student resistance emerged. The reason the dining halls must remain open is that the number of students who want to eat in them, and the students who want to eat in dormitory dining halls. It is not possible to keep the pressure on them. As a result, the dining halls must be closed, as the administration has discovered. Students must now work to keep the dining halls open.

The USA was as surprised as anyone by the administration's announcement of the new plan. The USA has done its students a real service by helping them to make use of the money invested in their meal plans to force them to limit their studies and extracurricular activities. Students need freedom to eat dinner and to enjoy their lives, and that is what the USA is trying to do. Seriously, the USA represents the best medium for students to voice their disapproval. Hopefully if students attend the next USA Council meeting tonight Wednesday night, the USA will be spurred to action.

Take immediate action too. Lawrence E. Maguire is the director of housing and food services; write him a piece of electronic mail and ask him to change the dining system. Maguire reports to Senator Vice President William R. Dickson '86, perhaps he can be convinced the Academic Council that it has made a mistake.

Maguire's e-mail address is: imaguire@eagle.mit.edu. Dickson's e-mail address is: scrowley@eagle.mit.edu.


days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signature, address, phone number, and e-mail address. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

Letters and cartoons must be written by members of the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, and editor of news at the Tech. Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced, and must be submitted on plain text. No longer than 400 words. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two

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Protest House Dining Proposal

The Bursar's Office Strives for Accessibility

I am writing in response to Opinion Editor Matthew H. Hensch's column in the Jan. 13 issue of The Tech, in which he said Bursar's Office services are available to "as many people as possible." I have been here since 1985, and our office is open 24 hours a day.

The Bursar's Office is open 24 hours a day. The office is located in the basement of the MIT Student Union. There are one-on-one sessions for all incoming students and parents, and we can assist them in the reception area of our office. It tells you what information is available and lets you know if his or her name is the office directory.

The Bursar's Office services them throughout the examination period. We have 800 telephone numbers to help call us easily if a problem arises with their loan account once they have left MIT. The number is 1-800-507-6012 and appears on all our student loan bills. We are working on making computer systems so our employees will be knowledgeable and helpful as possible when a client asks us to explain something about his or her account. We are also adding a new student account bill and are being flooded with responses to the 10,000 questionnaires we sent out to students in December asking for their ideas on how to improve it.

In summary, we in the Bursar's Office work to be as accessible as possible and we sincerely invite any client with a problem or question to contact us directly so we can respond.