LUTHERAN DISINTERESTED
In Dining Proposal

I am writing in response to the editorial about the house dining system ("Protest House Dining Proposal," Jan. 29). It's great that the dining system has finally come to the attention of the public, but I am dismayed at your implication that the Undergraduate Association has been disinterested. The UA president was first informed about the new house dining system only two weeks ago, and the UA does not meet during the independent Activities Period. If you had been at any of the subsequent UA executive committee meetings, you would have seen anything but a lack of interest, as most of the executive committee live in some of the affected dorms. If you are dissatisfied with the UA then I urge you to get involved in it by running for council, joining a committee, talking with UA reps, and/or attending one of the council meetings, which are open to all MIT students. Take your voice heard. Ask questions. It's your right as an MIT student. My sole function is to take minutes for UA and exec comm and then send an executive summary which is more than welcome. And here's a shocker: we represent you! We represent yourselves. They eat in the dining halls. They have to do some problem sets. Talk to them. It's their duty to listen to you, not vice versa.

The unfortunate truth is that faculty and administrators will often make decisions without input student whether student like it or not, such as the new in-line skating policy and the house dining system. These people already know students are right. Bitching about these policies is not constructive. If you don't like the house dining system (and I have yet to meet a student who does) then point out specific bad points that perhaps the administrators can fix - though of yet, such as it until it is built. It's inconvenient for UROPers, it's potentially harmful for students on special diets. We are concerned. Offer alternative suggestions, such as closing one or two dining halls or lowering the cost and the number of required meals a week. Ask them questions, such as "Why won't you close the dining halls, specifically?"

My advice if you think you're paying to go here. You have a right to know. I look forward to seeing you at the UA meeting. Room 10-250, February 4, 7:00 PM.

Holly R. Reimers '95
UA Secretary Pro-Tempore

President Clinton: We Need a New World View

Dear Mr. President,

We send you our congratulations for your victory at the polls last November and our greetings and best wishes to you on your inaugura

In January 1977, as the inauguration of the last Democratic president approached, the need for changes in American policy seemed obvious. Indeed even the direction of the needed changes seemed clear. The last elected President had left office in disgrace. The Vietnam war had just ended. The structure of the Great Society stood incomplete, and the work of the environmental movement had barely begun.

We needed a government in integrity which the people could participate. We needed drastic cuts in the military budget. We needed a more equitable sharing of our country's wealth through progressive taxation, public services, and social programs. The environmental legislation recently passed was inadequate.

We found in Scripture the compass point ing toward the opposite direction. We found a prophetic message to justice and compassion, the New Testament's urgency of universal human solidarity and the danger of war emerged, and thus a context for the next twenty years would be establish.

We have seen the deterioration of our economy. We have seen the ripping of the social fabric, the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor, the decline of our industry, and the accumulation of a huge national debt. Most important we have seen the environmental crises take on a new scale and magnitude. It is clear to any global phenomenon which is ending the carrying capacity of the earth, not just for future generations, but in our own day as well.

Programmatically this has the effect of total, not just partial, collapse of the Western welfare state and the American way of life. The most obvious is that the United States is facing the prospect of an unprecedented national debt. A strong argument can be made that this debt is already too high, and that the United States cannot afford to sustain it.

It is in this context that we write you this message. We are writing in response to the editorial in "Protest House Dining Proposal," Jan. 29. It's great that the dining system has finally come to the attention of the public, but I am dismayed at your implication that the Undergraduate Association has been disinterested. The UA president was first informed about the new house dining system only two weeks ago, and the UA does not meet during the independent Activities Period. If you had been at any of the subsequent UA executive committee meetings, you would have seen anything but a lack of interest, as most of the executive committee live in some of the affected dorms. If you are dissatisfied with the UA then I urge you to get involved in it by running for council, joining a committee, talking with UA reps, and/or attending one of the council meetings, which are open to all MIT students. Take your voice heard. Ask questions. It's your right as an MIT student. My sole function is to take minutes for UA and exec comm and then send an executive summary which is more than welcome. And here's a shocker: we represent you! We represent yourselves. They eat in the dining halls. They have to do some problem sets. Talk to them. It's their duty to listen to you, not vice versa.

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ERRATUM

The editorial in Friday's issue of The Tech, "Protest House Dining Proposal," Jan. 29 incorrectly identified the date of the next Undergraduate Association meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in 10-250.