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One of my friends was talking on the phone to a friend back home and commented that he didn't really consider MIT to be a very active political campus. I took notice and thought that it was interesting comment. We at MIT definitely do not carelessly shove aside non-academic matters; though without a doubt, we concentrate most of our time and energy to learning and studying, we also respond quite well to issues of the Institute. Just the hacks are clear evidence that MIT students have an opinion to express. So it makes me wonder why some of that action isn't directed at on-campus protests, concerning national and international political proceedings instead of whether or not Dean Vandiver had any logic in his statements that Dorm Rush is no longer a useful aspect of Orientation. Do we just not have energy to focus on **two** controversial issues? Is it too difficult to activate and stir up a significant portion of the student body? Are we not united enough to fight for a cause – one that's considerably important to the present youth of the nation? Are we so secluded within our own bubbles that we have no idea that the United States is rapidly advancing towards a widely-unsupported war against Iraq? Do we feel as if the more politically-inclined Harvard, Boston University, and Tufts kids can take care of the protests and newspaper rants themselves? There seems to be no real reason behind our lackadaisical attitude towards the war issue.

But then, just today, amidst my mass amounts of email messages about the brass rat ring premiere, course updates, problem set corrections, summer job opportunities, and

student center facilities, I received one specific email that stood out: MIT ANTI-WAR WALKOUT. It had a list of reasons against war as well as a petition to sign. The email's first sentence read "We call on all students, faculty, and staff opposed to war in Iraq to pledge their participation in the walkout and rally....For these reasons and more, we pledge to join countless others across the country in walking out of our classes at NOON on the first weekday after war begins. We will assemble at 77 MASS AVE for a rally to demonstrate our opposition. Afterwards, we will make posters, flyers, and more for the greater Boston rally at Government Center at 4:30 PM."

So maybe we *do* care about what's going on. I know for a fact that my friends and I constantly discuss what happens in this nation and world, and I'm the first to update them on any newsworthy situation, especially since I diligently read the New York Times, among others, everyday now. However, we have yet to take action. But I guess someone finally *did* decide that MIT, one of the most prestigious and capable universities in the world, should be involved, no matter how little, in one of the most pressing issues of, possibly, the decade.