More letters to The Tech

Course VI-A

To the Editor:
Course VI-A received some nice publicity in The Tech of February 26, but the increased interest in the program is not quite so dramatic as the HOPW mentioned in the second paragraph. Actually, new enrollment figures for one year are compared with total enrollment figures for another year. Let this memo set the record straight.

The number of applicants in 1970 was, indeed, 39; 29 of these being finally admitted to the program. This brought the total VI-A enrollment in the fall of 1970 to 95 students. The total enrollment in the fall of 1973 was 102.

What has been dramatic over the past several years is the rise in the number of applicants for the program. Witness the following statistics:

Year Applying New number enrolled
1970 39 29
1971 69 31
1972 83 47
1973 100 44

Current indications are that this spring will see another record number of enrollments. Already 47 firm applications have been received this term and the deadline isn't until March 1, 1974. My estimate of openings available, this year, is between 51 and 57, which will help a little with the demand.

John A. Tucker
Director, Course VI-A

Nixon fixation

To the Editor:
Some on The Tech staff seem down-right fascinated with impeachment of Nixon. Predictably there will be an article about this in every issue. Certainly journalists have a responsibility to direct their readers’ attention to the need for an honest responsive Federal government.

But it is also much safer to criticize those people and events which are hundreds of miles away.

The war research of the Draper Laboratory will soon be done in Kendall Square. Although this is coincidentally very convenient to MIT, only a short article (The Tech February 15, 1974), buried on page six, asked if the Draper Lab is really still divested from the Institute. One wonders how many MIT scientists and engineers will be taking a daily stroll to Kendall Square when the new laboratory is built.

Perhaps the most disappointing and irresponsible policy which The Tech has recently taken is accepting advertising from the MIT ROTC programs. Has everyone on the staff who used to oppose the Vietnam War graduated, been expelled, or just forgotten?

It might be more difficult for the United States to have another full scale military involvement if it lacked the personnel and technical equipment. Yet MIT continues to provide resources to the American military establishment; publishing weapons in the hands of men whose business is war.

Does The Tech staff condone this? Its whisper of protest about the relocation of Draper Lab, and its acceptance of ROTC recruitment ads, can lead this reader to only one conclusion.

Marya Sieminski ’75

Career women

To the Editor:
I refer to Mr. John Holly’s letter of February 24 [The Tech, March 19] regarding the application form for the Alfred P. Sloan Fellows Program.

It would be a masterpiece of understatement to say that I owe you and career women in general a deep, sincere apology. We worked hard on rewriting an obsolete, inappropriately worded brochure and completely forgot to do the same regarding the application form. It was a mistake on my part and I can only plead in my own defense that it was not intentional.

The irony of the situation is that I am one of those who have been leading a campaign over the last few years (before Affirmative Action Plans came into existence) to recruit those many women who would enrich the programs here — and to attract many more women than have come here in the past. I think that if you were to come visit with us, you would enjoy meeting the women in our various programs.

It is sometimes frustrating when we find our efforts attacked when we go as far as we did with the application blank. Somehow or other — unfortunately — there is too much of a tendency to pick hard on what we do not do well rather than lend the support and assistance that we need on those dimensions where we are achieving results, but striving for even greater results.

It goes without saying that the application blank has been corrected. I am sorry that the last paragraph of your letter is one that would seriously antagonize someone who was not already completely committed to the goals that you and I seem to have in common. Furthermore, there is already too much hostility in our society. I suspect that if someone wrote you the kind of letter you wrote me you would be as puzzled as I am by such a hostile tone.

Peter P. Gill