Identification badges are 'discriminatory'

To the Editor:
On the day after Independence Day, when we commemorated the declaration that all men are created equal — MIT instituted a new and discriminatory policy involving all non-clerical personnel in the Physical Plant department (maintenance, janitorial, and service staff). Since July 5, all of these employees have been required to wear badges, which is humiliating in itself — no one likes to have to prove his identity. But insult is added to injury when the badges (as at Draper Labs, for instance) are worn by those who feel they are not part of the MIT community. MIT is an open university; it is open 24 hours a day. This unique situation, while a boon to researchers and students, is a liability as well since it makes crime prevention very difficult. The ID policy might be an effective measure against theft (though it has yet to be proven); if so, however, it ought to be community-wide and not restricted to one department. Certainly, those who breathe the open-university system — students, researchers, etc. — should not be the only ones to bear the brunt of preventing the crime it seems to encourage. Having to wear the ID badges is humiliating in itself — no one likes to have to prove his identity. But insult is added to injury when the badges (as at Draper Labs, for security purposes) or no one. The present policy causes more problems than it solves and ought to be suspended immediately pending further consideration and deliberation by the MIT community. One hardly imagines that the procedure for withdrawing granulocytes required a willing recipient. DC Smith

Response to emergency gratifies DSA Eisenberg

To the Editor:
People often stop me to ask me whatever possessed me to become a social worker; they wonder what masochistic tendency keeps me at it. When I answer, "MIT students," they mutter to each other about fascist sentiments and other scarcely savourable sentiments. I wish they had been around on Monday night at about 15:30 when I had a call from a physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. An MIT student was on the critical list following extensive antibiotic treatment. He had been admitted to the hospital in danger of dying from infection unless he could receive large amounts of white cells from compatible donors. Could we, he asked, do it? I had no idea. He threatened to spend the remainder of the summer in a hospital. Perhaps a better place for the summer. I can't imagine where this fellow was when he needed an African at all hours of the day. My friends and I were wondering yesterday if we were being太过 accomplished, but we are wondering if we are not. I have been asked to answer why I am glad to be at MIT. Not even my most cynical questioners could have returned in doubt. The students at MIT are something. A word of follow-up. The student did survive. What's more, a threatened amputation proved unnecessary. It was good news at the start of a school year.

Carola Eisenberg

HEAD OF STUDENTS' UNION

Pic Book 'not political'

To the Editor:
In the Freshman Picturebook, class of 1978, which was recently published by The Technology Community Association (TCA), a picture of a girl appeared under the name of Harvey Grogo. From Kampala, Uganda, the interpretation gives this picture by some members of the MIT community has created a great misunderstanding. We wish here to explain our intentions in including this picture.

Harvey Grogo (a gorilla), nor does she represent an entering freshman. Harvey Grogo is known to meet as Grogo in a creation of Technique (the MIT yearbook).

He is best described as Technique's mascot. Six-inch plastic statues of Grogo exist and are used by Technique as honorarydories. Grogo is used as an example for many members. The picture of Grogo, furnished in us by Technique, was taken from one of these statues. Technique suggested that Grogo be included in this year's Freshman Picturebook in a back pocket and as a partial remuneration for their aid in producing the Freshman Picturebook. It was not included to insult anyone. In fact there were several other badges included in the Freshman Picturebook this year, including George Doms, Tom Swift, Hermon Q. Witherspoon, David Mark (submitted by a freshman),

Paul Tower submitted by a freshman. Ticked Off listed under Tech Talk. Such hawks have been a tradition in the Freshman Picturebook for years.

The staff considered the entry of Harvey Grogo as a lack of a similar nature. Gorillas are included in the Freshman Picturebook in order to fit the format of the Freshman Picturebook we wanted an African city and country. I genda and its capital were illustrated to the staff because of the attention they have received in the press. Having Gorog come from an African country could be construed as a political statement which the picture was not intended to be.

We are saddened that many of the applicants for this year, and past years, did not directly contact TCA, but we think that five who did, did.

Roger D. Greenman

Technique

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