Should Kresge grass be trampled?

Grass walker replies

To the Editor:

I spend the majority of my day walking on concrete, asphalt, and in limestone corridors, but when I get the chance to walk on green grass, I take it. Yes, I am one of those illogical Kresge lawn trampers. I'm in strong disagreement with a recent letter in The Tech. Kerry Emanuel stating that we are only "cut-starved ground sloths" bent on saving a few seconds by cutting across the Kresge lawn. Well, he's definitely wrong about me. The reason I walk on the Kresge lawn is the opportunity of coming in contact with something natural like grass after being constantly surrounded by concrete and asphalt. I come from a city clued somewhere in between urban and rural, and one thing I truly miss is my front lawn. In the two short months I've been here, I have noticed that more people walk across Kresge lawn on warm, sunny days, than on any other kind. If, as you say, their only motive was to save time and get to classes, then all these people are really missing out of the sunshine and fresh air into a classroom. That's pretty silly, Rather. I believe that most of these people are like me and just enjoy walking in the sun on a beautiful day.

You also state that you wouldn't expect the awful crime of cutting across Kresge lawn from someone with a rural background. Actually it is just the opposite with this. Rural people would more likely be longing for contact with nature again. I would even venture a guess, Mr. Emanuel, that you were raised in a rural environment. You seem to suggest that we should take nature and figuratively put it in a museum behind a glass case so that it could be forever enjoyed. Grass has more dignity than your opinions are leading people to believe. Also don't think you know where you get off equating people who enjoy the Kresge lawn with "calculating-welding academics" or in other words, guards. This is simply name-calling.

Keep off the grass

By David B. Keertz

What Kerry Emanuel fails to point out, and what Mr. G.D. does not realize, is that several years back the "cut-starved ground sloths" completely overran the Institute.

When I came here in 1974, I was one of those time-conscious academics who regularly trampled across Kresge Terrace. By late in the fall term of 1974, there was a lovely swath cut from the stairs to the Chapel, where west campus dormitory residents tended to cut across on their way to classes. Unfortunately, that swath consisted of bare ground which often tamed to an inch of thick mud.

In the spring, it was obvious something had to be done. A group of concerned students who called themselves "Gwasscomm" rose to the occasion. Tiny signs reading, "Please keep off the grass - Gwasscomm" appeared at either end of the worn path. Soon a new social consciousness was manifest on campus. The garden sloths were gradually converted to the dooms of the aestheticians and - lo and behold - the grass came back.

A couple of years have passed since then. The grass has enjoyed glistening on Kresge Oval. But this year, things have started to change for the worse once again. Three classes have inserted MIT since Gwasscomm — and three socially conscious classes have departed. As a result, students are thoughtlessly trampling the grass once again. On 2 clear days, you can see the beginnings of the return of The Path.

There is plenty of grass on which you may graze, Mr. G.D., but why is it necessary to destroy that fragile strip? All of the In- stitute's sunbathers, frisbee players, maybe only motive was to save time and other kind. If, as you say, their opposed the current. I'm afraid that running a shoe that people are rushing to get out of the ground sloths were gradually con-

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