Editor's note: It is widely recognized here and elsewhere that college students are among the stranger of the many breeds of people. Following is an observation on college students made 36 years ago which somehow seems valid even now. (Reprinted from May 1942)

Looking back

Here in Cambridge, land of the Crimson, home of the engineers

the monsoons have confirmed the presence of finals time, otherwise known as spring. At this time it is a simple matter to recognize the three types of individuals comprising a student body, namely the "college boys", the athletes and the working class.

The college boy is known to everyone. He is noted for wearing Brooks Bros. suits with dirty white sneakers, or dirty chinos with plaid sport jackets. He is unable to decide which is the most natural and generally covers up the whole works with a raincoat.

In the spring when the rain stops, many a young man's fancy turns to... baseball, lacrosse, and the discus. After all, jockstraps keep generous alumni happy, and as the Georgia Tech Technique points out, student support is increasing. As an example, MIT baseball games are now consistently drawing at least ten or twelve fans per game. Jockstraps are great, though. Most of their friends are the college boys who act as interpreters.

Last, and certainly least, we have the backbone of MIT, America's hope for technological superiority, the students.

They are conspicuous for their ability to amaze their dates with completely unrehearsed gems like, "I worked out the neatest integral problem last week," or "Da you think it's right for atoms to be split?"

For them comes this piece of advice by Dick Wasserman of the Duke Chronicle: "Instead of going to an ADULT movie or reading a dirty book, it is much cheaper to obtain at least vicarious satisfaction by simply buying two rabbits."

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When finals are finally over...

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