feedback

Cantebreggge tales unfair

To the editor:
co-ed n (short for coeducational student): a female student in a coeducational institution.
co-educational (from aecula-loe): the education of students of both sexes at the same institution. 

Dear Mr. Agam,

Doubleyou you will receive other replies to your Cantebreggge Tales. Truth to be told, I found it rather clever, especially the beginning, but I was disappointed when I read of your five "pilgrims." I had expected something a little more original than your description of the Coed. But I'm not going to let it bother me too much. Surely readers will realize that your picture of a two hundred pound "coed" is about as realistic as your description of a gnurd with three calculators on his belt. The poem was meant as broad farce, and I will accept it as such. Still, it smarts. I've heard female students at MIT attacked in this way, and I've never come to accept it. Hey guys, we're humans too. We've got our problems, and we make mistakes, but we're all in this together.

When you stop to think of it, calling us "coeds" is the biggest insult there is.

Bonnie Mason, '79

Hack photo explained

To the editor:

It has been brought to my attention that my picture in the lower right hand corner of p. 10 in the Class of 1982 Freshman Picterbook has offended, and/or upset certain members of the MIT community. I truly sorry that my harmless prank photo caused people grief. I have great respect for MIT and in no way was attempting to degrade the Institute or the students who attend it. I worked reasonably hard on the picturebook and felt that it would be nice to have my picture in the book, and the photo would have to be a "hack" picture to fit in, so I submitted the photo as it appears in the picturebook, intending only to entertain, not upset, people.

I am somewhat stunned that people found the picture disturbing, since it is clear that I am wearing some clothing. (I'm standing on Washington St. during midday so I must be dressed!) I hope everyone who was upset can be comforted in knowing that it was not at all mean or a degradation of MIT or the members of the community.

Rob Firester, '81

MIT football had no support in '75

To the editor:

With the return of football to the roster of sports at MIT, it may be nostalgic and perhaps amusing to take a look at some thoughts of a major sports magazine (circa 1975) about its plausibility:
"There is no MIT football team. Nor is there evidence that anyone wants one. Athletic director Ross H. Smith says that the subject is broached "in cycles every five years or so." At MIT this cyclic phenomenon is treated as if it were an open jar of smallpox virus, and soon routed. (Sports Illustrated, May 26, 1975) I seem that now that there has been a confirmed case of smallpox in Britain, we here at MIT also have been infected. The article also quotes a debate among frat brothers (also from the 1975 era) about the spiritual consequences/benefits of varsity football:
"A football team is great for school spirit.
"Not if it loses. Watch a team lose 26 in a row and see what happens to school spirit. We may lose the spirit we already have. Hell, no, football would corrupt the entire program." And that... would be a shame.

Well, it seems that Boston has its combat zone, and that MIT has its own den of corruption - Football. I for one can't object to living in sin (this type at least) and I can't believe the team will lose 26 in a row.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Bruce Kaplan, '82

September 13, 1978