Freedom of choice not a dining issue

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Wendy Rowe's letter on the Report of the Committee on Campus Living in the September 28 issue of The Tech. Miss Rowe put forward the committee's proposals on the basis that compulsory commons will be a deterrent to the freedom of choice for the future MIT undergraduate community.

Miss Rowe would probably have a valid argument if students were, indeed, forced to eat on compulsory commons. The fact remains, though, that under the current proposal, there are other options.

Under the proposal, five out of the ten dorms will be on a combined room and board plan. Freshmen during R.O. week will just take this into account as one more factor when choosing a dorm. MIT students will still be "free to choose where and how they want to live." Since 60% of this year's freshmen ended out in their first choice dorm, they are not really being "forced" anywhere. In addition, if having this choice is one of the chief motivating factors for a person choosing a particular dorm, the freshman can always list other non-compulsory commons dorms in subsequent choices, or even switch dorms if he changes his mind.

If this proves unsatisfactory to the freshman, there is still the Intimacy system to rely on. Only about 65% of this year's freshmen are in the dormitory system. The prototypes have remained a viable option for many, including students who did not like the dorm they were put in during R.O.

The thing to keep in mind is that the combined room and board plan in certain will just be another facet of the dorm's profile if this plan is adopted. Nobody says that a freshmen is "forced" into a single-sex dorm if he thinks that MacGregor is the dorm for him, but a freshmen is "forced" to live in a quad for a year because he happens to like flaker. Each freshmen takes all the qualities of a dorm into account, and then makes his choice. Granted, there are still minor problems and gaps in the Dining Committee's proposals, but lack of freedom of choice is not one of them. People who, as Wendy Rowe put it, find "compulsory commons something worth fighting" merely need to make the right choice.

Kenneth A. Turkelwitz '80

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What Sherman missed

The rain fell more heavily. A woman near me collapsed, having consumed her last strength. Mary knelt about her to help. And above them were the constant cries of children being lifted up to shoulders: "I see him! He's really there!"

When I heard that so often, when I saw the woman slowly recovering her strength, when I felt the cold water running down my back, when I was John Paul led to a white video blip before a dark video sea, I had the feeling that human hopes and dreams — for the very spirit of humanity, which has so short a season — are, in the end, uncrushable. As the Voice of Christ on Earth bid us goodbye, all hands rose in fond farewell, many crying out their best wishes. When I turned away, I felt cold and wet, for sure, but I was renewed as well.

I am not fool enough to believe the Pope infallible, nor am I fool enough to insist he is not inspirational. In this age of evil and psychopathology, on this campus, where the inspired philosophy "objectionism" has its own tabloid, where sophomore ring committees and Jews for Jesus rant over ethical minutiae in The Tech, where a seedy cartoonist caricatures evangelists as "Brian Plastic", where my friends currently disease "softness" and "emotional independence" as if they were the ends and not the means, it is refreshing to me to have seen a man and an institution who insist on the folly of human pride, insist on a morality greater than our own, insist we must believe it, and insist we can aspire to it.

Thomas Garvey

Maserati Merak or Lamborghini Silhouette?

If you know... you probably know St. Pauli Girl Beer.

People who know the difference in fine things know the difference between imported beer and St. Pauli Girl, the superb imported German beer.

"Girl" fanciers favor St. Pauli Girl with its delicious, full-bodied flavor and sparkle. Many have even discovered St. Pauli Girl Dark with its hearty and distinctive German richness.

Maserati, if its "Flying Butness" rear-quarter treatment didn't tip you (Silhouette has air scoops!) Ms. Liberty should have. Factory Lamborghini are no longer imported. Buffs have to spend small fortunes to make them "U.S. legal!"