Guest Column/David Scrimshaw
Reflections of a green rubber guy

One day I was browsing around Goods, the knock-knock store in Faneuil Hall Marketplace. My eyes wandered in surprise. There on the counter lay a full box of Gumbys, those six-inch-high green rubber guys with wire inside. "Oh, wow! It's Gumby!" I exclaimed. A couple of eighth grade girls were at it as well. "Who's Gumby?" they asked.

"This is Gumby. Haven't you ever seen Gumbly?" I hadn't. I tried to tell them about the old television show where Gumby had adventures with a friend Pokey, an orange horse. They looked at me as if only children convinced some older person is crazy can.

"But what does it do?" they asked.

"He doesn't do anything! He doesn't have to; he's Gumby." They headed for the cosmetics counter and I bought myself a basket full of Gumbys, those six-inch-high green rubber guys with wire inside. By the time I got home, I realized I had made a mistake. Gumby could ever ask for.

"This is Gumby. Haven't you ever seen Gumbly?" thecustomer asked. I tried to tell them about the General Assembly and Finance Board and Student Center Committee and everybody else. There's just that one thing the general assembly and finance board are supposed to do. I tried out my great idea for improving the General Assembly. "Whoa," people said, "hold on, give us some time to think about that." And I did, too. At least I thought.

Stoped me cold. I didn't have time. I'm already out of office and people are thinking about my first great idea. Now people with other great ideas are in charge and there aren't any great ideas to think over.

We're using the budget to support the MIT community another thing to tell people about. What a strange place MIT is. That's really all a Gumby could ever ask for.

The board of regents of the University of California recently called upon university administrators, and formally apologized to United States Ambassador to the United Nations Anne J. Kirkpatrick for disruptions to her Feb. 15 lecture at the university's Berkeley campus and to ensure such disruptions do not again occur.

An apology, the dictionary says, is "an admission of error or dishonesty accompanied by an expression of regret." If University of California President David S. SAxon M., chairperson-elect of the MIT Corporation, apologizes, his message will be "I regret that some students disagreed with your political views, and I assure you that this will not happen again." That's right that a president of a university could be called upon to do this is absurd.

Such absurdity is not without precedent. The news media in the United States have discussed and exaggerated the incident beyond recognition in an attempt to discredit Kirkpatrick's political position. Reading The New York Times, or elsewhere, for example, gives one the impression Kirkpatrick is a noble champion of free speech and an articulate opponent of repression everywhere.

"As Thomas Jefferson, John Stuart Mill, John Dewey, Sidney Hook and others have emphasized," the ambassador has said, "free inquiry and free speech are the very foundation of innovation, science and democracy. Obviously, it is appropriate that they should be defended categorically — by persons and associations with a serious commitment to free inquiry and free speech and an ardent supporter of repression. Freedom of speech and countless other basic human rights are threatened by the foreign policy of the Reagan administration and Jean Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick actively supports governments engaging in systematic political murder, torture, incarceration, and harassment of civilians: El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, South Korea, South Africa, and Israel.

The ambassador's statement to the contrary is blatant attempts to confuse the issue and mislead the public.

The United Nations Charter states that aggression is the most heinous of war crimes. hanged people at Nuremburg for waging aggressive war. Kirkpatrick, however, doesn't seem to agree with the United Nations Charter. While her initial response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was laudable she voted for Security Council Resolution 242.

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