Consider issues of life, rights

The Class of 1983 is now being inundated with advice from parents, friends, and graduation speakers on what issues they should concern themselves with in the coming decades, as leaders of our technological future. There will be much discussion on the arms race, how best to educate the next generation of engineers and scientists, and on continuing the search for a cure to world hunger. One task that will have for sure will be sex.

Many aspects of sex are frequently discussed during our years at MIT. But discussion on one variation of the last topic is rarely heard. That is, in addition to considering the implications of one's own work, we all have a duty to speak out on issues concerning future generations, particularly those involving technology.

Perhaps the best example of this responsibility is the profound implications that medical technology will have for society in the coming decades. While predicting the future is always risky, I predict the coming decades will see the greatest impact by the end of this millennium and into the next will be the decision of defining human life.

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