To the Editor:

We found it to be quite a coincidence that a letter regarding items stolen from the Coop was printed shortly after we suffered the same fate [Feedback, Sept. 20]. On Tuesday, Sept. 13, we went to the Coop to pick up a few items. Because rain was expected, we both brought along umbrellas.

Upon entering the Coop, we put our umbrellas on the shelf near the book department. At about 6:40—the Coop was open until 7:00 that night—we left; it wasn't until we reached East Campus that we both realized that we had forgotten our umbrellas.

At 6:50, Jim called the Coop and talked to a young lady in the electronics department. She said that, yes, she saw them, and that they would be behind the desk for us in the morning. The next day, Adam went to the Coop to pick up the umbrellas. Alas, the Coop had no idea to what he was referring.

The young lady in the electronics department said that she had forgotten to mention it to somebody, apparently assuming that someone had taken care of it for her. Nevertheless, between 6:50 and 7:00 that night, someone walked off with our umbrellas; and, if that is not the case, an even more upsetting possibility exists—that they were taken by an employee as he or she left the store, thinking that if it was left on the shelf then it had been forgotten, thus making it "fair game."

A report was filled out for MIT Campus Police, at which time we learned that "this sort of thing happens a lot." So, we are left with the fact that it is remarkably easy to walk away with something left on that shelf— even if the store is virtually empty, as it was that night.

Suggestion? A security guard could be posted, or the Coop could adopt a system whereby you could actually check your things—complicated, perhaps, but if "this sort of thing" is as widespread as we have been led to believe, then the end—security—certainly justifies the means.

Adam Bernard '86
James H. Koenig '87