Charges Tech misquoted him

To the Editor:

Much to my dismay, I am yet another victim of misquotation by The Tech. I am referring to Ellen L. Spero’s article entitled “Activity Participation Falls” which appeared in the Tuesday, Oct. 25 issue. In reference to the Federal auditors say MIT must pay benefits (Continued from page 7) searce unrestricted program funds—a decision which must be made by the senior officers of MIT, not financial administrators. I also explained to your reporter that I was not personally involved with the negotiations associated with the change and referred him to the Comptroller, who could answer his questions with more clarity. In addition, I mentioned that it was my understanding from a conversation I had the previous week with Assistant Dean [for Student Affairs Stephen D.] Immerman that he had pointed out that subsidies to one program from another were not made to your reporter had to do with the equity of one cost allocation method versus another. I pointed out that subsidies to one program from another were not uncommon at MIT in effect this is the result of this accounting change and that a close scrutiny of the individual student activities might well show that their current subsidies factored in the added burden the change creates.

MIT Concert Band, I was “quoted” (and I do use the term loosely) as saying, “We actually have more people than we need.” I neither said these words, nor did I imply them! In confirming that the MIT Concert Band does not have a participation problem.

While many of the issues associated with this accounting change for employee benefits were covered in your articles, some important ones were not. Both Dean [for Student Affairs Shirley M.] McBAY and I would be glad to discuss these issues with you further if you like—give either of us a call.

John A. Currie ’57
Director of Finance

I enthusiastically stated that this year we have significantly more members than last year.

It is the official policy of the MIT Concert Band that anyone who is willing to participate on a regular basis and who makes a sincere effort to learn the music is welcome to join the band. We never have more people than we need and we welcome new members throughout the year. I suggest that The Tech use quotes only when actually quoting one’s words. If that is too much to ask for, how about a legitimate paraphrase?

Charles R. Marge ’84
President, MIT Concert Band

Editor’s note: The Tech has reviewed the reporter’s notes. The story accurately recounted Mr. Marge’s words and fairly represented the ideas he expressed. The Tech stands by the story.

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