Opinion

Column/Simson L. Garfinkel

Unified core subjects at MIT improve education

Third in a series

MIT requires a year's study in physics and mathematics, a semester in chemistry or biology, three science distribution subjects, and a laboratory subject. To meet these requirements, the student must take more subjects than are required to complete the core of MIT's curriculum.

Again, the classes would be unified, but students would concentrate in the fields which interested them most.

The obvious, though inaccurate, objection to this proposal is that the added classes would consume too much of a student's valuable time — time better spent studying in his major. Comprehensive courses would alleviate the need for departments to teach many of the basics in their fields. It is also possible to teach technical and scientific material at a faster pace when the student knows how the subject matter fits into the big picture of all sciences. A student who learns color theory in computer graphic design can easily relate it to color photography.

MIT could not administer these subjects as freshman physics and chemistry are currently being administered. The Department of Physics currently sees itself as providing a community service by educating the students in mechanics and electromagnetism. The departments of Chemistry and Materials Science and Engineering see themselves as doing the same with General Chemistry. Again, it is ridiculous for one department to administer subjects everyone at MIT must take, classes which have such far-reaching implications.

Science, Technology, and Society, or a similar program, would

feedback

Explain honor

To the Editor:

Several weeks ago, you published a letter which criticized as false a statement in my campaign literature that I am an "honors graduate of MIT." Since I recently won re-election to the City Council, my only remaining interest is in protecting what is left of my good name.

In fact, before I graduated from the Institute, I was inducted into the XI of Massachusetts Chapter (MIT) of Phi Beta Kappa. I hope I can be forgiven for regarding that as an honor.

I look forward to serving all Cambridge citizens, including MIT affiliates, during another City Council term.

David E. Sullivan '74
Cambridge City Councillor

Simple deception put the Peppersidge Farm Cookie safely within his grasp.