Unified core subjects at MIT improve education

(Continued from page 6) would be the ideal body to manage and administer these new broad-spectrum subjects. Being outside of the departments of interest, they are free to see the implications, for example, of physics to chemistry, or better yet, to see the subject as a whole. The actual teachers for the individual subjects, of course, would still come from the individual departments.

There are pitfalls in a program of this kind. Students might think those administering the subjects are trying to entertain them, rather than teach basic concepts and ideas. While students may now hate Physics I, I must believe the nuts and bolts approach to mechanics is beneficial and necessary, despite how painful it may be. By giving students a wider choice among core curricula, the sense of "this is important because you have to take it," with which Physics I enjoys, would be reduced.

There comes a depressing moment in an individual's life when he realizes he cannot learn everything there is to know. Resources and individuals exist at MIT, however, so that we can obtain a general comprehension of everything scientific there is to know, if not the theory behind the subjects themselves. While MIT cannot impose this opportunity on anyone, it should admit individuals with this outlook preferentially over others. Once the students are admitted, the program must direct them toward an education of this sort, in addition to an intensive study of one or two majors.

To the Editor:

I very much agree with the thought and insight behind the Nov. 29 cartoon depiction of Yuri Andropov thanking ABC for having shown "The Day After." It is completely undeniable that the airing of "The Day After" has indeed "provided an invaluable service to" the Soviet Union. Far from promoting governmental censorship, I only wish that ABC had chosen not to air "The Day After." The review has served a dual purpose: it has not only educated, by definition, the public, but through this education it has also devastated it with fear. An educated public is indeed the bedrock of democracy, but a public overwhelmed with fear is the seed of a tree which can only bear the fruits of spontaneity and self-annihilation. "The Day After" has moved people toward a feeling that the situation is so horrible that we must resort to some simple solutions. Scared to death, Americans are searching impulsively for a simple way to avert nuclear catastrophe. It was not enough that "The Day After" helped people realize that nuclear catastrophe had to be avoided and arms control is necessary; it had to dumbfound them into seeking "simple solutions" to obviously complex problems. This explains increased participation in movements repudiating mutual deterrence until agreements of sorts can be reached and promulgating more unilateral and less so bilateral disarmament policies. This is why it can be said the "The Day After" has provided service to the Soviet Union. Just look at the ramifications of its airing: simple-minded Americans fueled by fear are seeking and promoting "simple solutions." "The Day After" should not have been shown! Don't get me wrong; I'm not an atavistic attacking freedom of expression but only a concerned individual who wishes that freedom of choice had been exercised with foresight; then again, maybe it was! Count me against both "a" day after and "The Day After." Paul R. Tapp '87

Pepperidge Farm® bakes 30 deliciously tempting cookies like Mint Milano, Date Pecan and Chocolate Brownie Nut. They're freshly baked with the finest ingredients, then sealed tightly in foil-lined bags. And of course, in true pepperidge farm cookie tradition, they don't contain any artificial colors, flavors or preservatives. Persuade your shopkeeper to part with a bag. And surrender to sweet indulgence.