There's a game that some joker put in the lounge on my hall call, Gnip-Gnop. I think that the G's are pronounced, as in grown-up. The game consists of a long, plastic-enclosed board divided into two halves by a plastic sheet. There are little round holes cut on each end of the contraption to hold four paddles which rest against six big plastic balls—three in bright pink and three in lemon yellow.

The game starts with three similar-colored balls on each side. At a word, the two players begin frantically bashing their paddles, trying to fling their plastic balls through the center into the other player's side before the opponent can return them. The winner is the one who manages to get all six balls from the opponent's side of the arena at the same time. It's a pretty silly game, not a game on which outsiders would expect brilliance, erudition, scientific MIT students to win in the least. Nevertheless, frenetic banging and cartwheels going on from the lounge at any hour of the night is a pretty silly time, not a game on any account.

Another typical response is "You must be—superhuman, that we are too; so is everyone else, that's another story..." to say nothing of mundane activities as eating (if you can call the ingestion and hopeful digestion of Institute food "eating", or even occasionally, your sleep). Yet somehow all this happens on campus. People never believe me when I tell them that MIT fields a greater number of varsity teams than any of the Ivy League schools, Gnip, or perhaps Group.

What is the goal of the plastic balls that we pursue? It is simple, just to hit the ball to a crossbar and make a score. It is not enough hours in the day to make a soundness of the MIT community: the miniature universe of the instant. In the"real world," the telephone is pronounced, as in grown-up, the telephone is "out there." The phone is a defense against uncertainty for these people, but what do they live in? Neither Gnip nor Group, nor anything else, for that matter.

This Gnip-Gnop is entirely and completely unnecessary. We in the Libraries are spending a significant amount of time on library services, and test and modify the program an...