Guest Column/Elliot Marx

Report truth about MIT

When I first came to MIT, I ex-
pected that most of the students
would be nerds — with no inter-
est in socializing and com-
plete rule breaking. But, much
as the handbook warned me in
our college, the MIT student is
typically an outcast — with no in-
terest in the humanities, ap-
plying that we do not care
about sports, or other
activities. In Random Hall
alone, I have seen
people, both in cour-
ses and in others.

To my surprise, I have found
these descriptions of MIT stu-
dents to be true in most cases, if not eu-
terly true. Even though many
students here are strong in mat-
ematics, there is no such stu-
dent as a typical student. Per-
sonal pursuits here are extremely
diverse. In Random Hall alone, I
have met a soccer player, an ar-
tist, a composer, several gui-
tar players, and a comic book col-
lector.

MIT has a higher percentage of
foreign students than that of
just about any other college in
the United States. These students
add tremendously to the diversity
of cultures and more here.

If only I had known these
tings about MIT before I came
here! I might have been able to
convince some of the other seven
students from my school who
were accepted by MIT. Unfortu-
ately, they did not enroll, partly
because they believed the negative
stereotypes they had heard about
MIT.

These stereotypes probably
originated several years ago. MIT
admissions officers were not at-
tracting a diverse group of people
ten. Their concern was ad-
miring future scientists, whether
or not they were needed. Inven-
tive people either applied to an
ivy League school or MIT, never
both.

Today, however, more people
are applying to both MIT and Ivy
League schools. Admissions offi-
cers here compete with the Ivy
League for intelligent students
who have a wide variety of inter-
ests and talents. I hope that in the future, high
school graduates will make a
more informed decision about
applying to and enrolling at MIT.

Reporters and surveyors cannot
describe MIT as we can, be-
cause they are not experiencing
life here. I urge every one of you
careers here compete with the Ivy
League schools. Admissions offi-
cers here compete with the Ivy
League for intelligent students
who have a wide variety of inter-
ests and talents. I hope that in the future, high
school graduates will make a
more informed decision about
applying to and enrolling at MIT.

The Tech story was relevant in
the Editor.