Column/Thomas T. Huang

Thirty years of peace should not be forgotten

While Ronald Reagan slept, 39 years passed. Awakening in the golden age, when we could walk the twilight streets and not fear for our lives, when we could trust the government and stand up to the Russians, and when elementary schools taught our children traditional values.

Oh, yes, those were the days.

A new three-year nationwide campaign, before summertime crowds, is being called for a new beginning, for the nation to break free from the years of twisted memories that had distanced us from this golden age. And so he called for a get-tough foreign policy to preserve freedom. And so he expressed affirmative action. And so he supported school prayer.

What Reagan was suggesting was that we create two tumultuous decades of American history, ad-ides in which we witnessed the transformation of our young children into the primes of their lives, watched over and transformed in their own tiny energy in some far-off jungle, snuffed the acid smoke of our burning photos, and answered a presidential conspiracy.

If we were to begin again, we would have to leave the bodies behind. But there is a great danger that we are doing more than that, that we are, in fact, reenacting our history. Look at that halo of blood, that's Jack Kennedy's head, right there.

The lifeflows of our lead-ers have been forever captured in the pictures of LBJ. Will our new history recall that each man was a human being who had weaknesses as well as strengths? Or will those who would manipulate us continue to treat these men as one-dimensional cardboard men for their own purposes these men's words, even when they do not understand them?

Night after night, we studied the maiming wounds of our sol-diers in our very own living room, for Vietnam was the first tele-vised war. All in living color. But will this history recall the blood and honor of that war? Or will we only be able to love and rage for our veterans, expecting the pariah to the pillation of躺在?

In those years, our cities were (Please turn to page 9)

The Tech

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Dear President Gray:

I would like to bring an of-fensive questionnaire appearing in this year's HowToGAMIT to your attention. We enclosed a copy of "Appendix 5 — Baker House Purity Test" so that you can see the sexist, racist and homophobic attitudes presented in the HowToGAMIT guide, MIT's har-rassment policy is discussed. The Institute defines harassment as "verbal or physical conduct which has the intent or effect of . . . creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment or on campus." Appendix 5 is harassment, par-ticularly for women in the MIT community.

The purity test is a list of ques-tions, presumably intended to be funny, which measures the degree of an individual's sexual activity. However, some of these questions are unrelated to sexual activity; rather, they concern the issue of vio-lence. Questions presented to women includes:

* Have you ever committed incest?
* Have you ever participated in a gay orgy?
* Have you ever been successfully raped a woman?
* Have you ever been filleted in a gay bar?

In contrast, can you imagine the question, "Have you ever cas-ted a man?" Would you find it amusing? Obviously, all of the questions are intolerable and constitute harassment. Rape is not funny. Rape is violence against women. Questions trivialize rape and pain and fear. The issue of violence against women touches women's daily lives; one out of three women will be raped or sexually assault- ed in her lifetime.

The questionnaire also assumes that normal human behavior is ex-clusively heterosexual and intra- racial. For example, these two questions are also in the test:

* Have you ever had a homo-sexual experience?

The editors allowed Appendix—5 to be printed despite the fact learn from finistakes, and I appreciate your writing to

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I hope that our decision effectively en-forcement to its own rules. We want to see MIT and TCA publicly address these issues, learn from each other, and make certain such verbal harass-ments stop appearing in any future publication.

Carolyn B. Huang Jennifer L. Lin '87

Published on behalf of AWS/Profinema

Purity test was sexist and racist

Dear President Gray:

I would like to bring an of-

Anonymous letters will not be ac-

To AWS/Profinema:

I appreciate your writing to

Purity test was sexist and racist

On behalf of AWS/Profinema:

Michael Boyle

gas.

I would like to bring an of-

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