November 5, 1993

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OPINION

Letters To The Editor

Chairman Matthew H. Hersh '94
Editor in Chief Jeremy Hytlon '94
Business Manager Benjamin A. Tao
Managing Editor Garlen C. Leung '95

Hove Column Fails To Address Concerns

Being absent from campus, I just read Andover Hove’s guest column ("America Must Choose Between Health Care Plan, Status Quo, Oct. 8") on the subject of health care, through The Tech’s electronic database. I am disappointed by his failure even to discuss the concerns I raised. Hove states that my opinion column “does more to confuse than to inform the reader.” However, he never points out what he means by confusing.

His only disagreement is with my use of the phrase “cost-shifting” to describe the large subsidies that young people will pay to support their wealthier elders. Because the health care establishment’s preferred term for this is “community rating,” he implies, it does not matter. This is rebuked by rephrasing. Hove does not address the fact that the Clinton administration’s own estimate is that more than 40 percent of all Americans will pay more for health care under the new scheme, even with the expected projections. And nowhere does he explain how the health plan will cost half as much as it is widely assumed. In other countries, the cost of the national health system accelerates under government ownership. The only reason I was able to find the Clinton administration’s greedy samurai ship, without any evidence of an original contribution.

Lars Bader G

Media Challenges Foreign Policy Powers

Over the last two weeks, President Clinton has come under intense fire for failing to articulate a firm and clear foreign policy. Foreign policies have come from all quarters. Democrats and Republicans, members of Congress, State Department officials, journalists, former diplomats, and even Professor of Political Science Barry Posen ("Where’s the Grand Strategy?", The Boston Globe, Oct. 17). The driving debate has been questions regarding policy as it relates to United States interests abroad.

Toady’s rapidly evolving regional flashpoints pose a difficult challenge for any president who would attempt to forge popular consensus on foreign policy. If any “grand strategy” with applications for policy in Haiti or Somalia exists, it has been kept hidden. But even if there is some such strategy, can a president convince us to stick to it? Can a president apply such policies during and rapidly-evolving crisis, taking all the risks associated with it, and still keep the American public alive in it?

In the past, American presidents were able to cast major U.S. foreign policy actions as part of a firm grand strategy. The Roosevelt corollary, the fights against communism and world fascism, and the Truman Doctrine were all successful in persuading the American public to “pay and stay.” But in today’s world, the continuous arduous struggles which might be extremely unpopular to Americans in these days, a mysterious article in Foreign Affairs, penned by an author identified only as “X”, offering a vision of global “containment” could be accepted as a “grand Strategy.”

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The Tech Wants to Hear from You

Starting with this issue, The Tech will ask a question about an important campus issue to promote greater dialogue among the MIT community. To submit a subsequent issue, a new question will appear on the opinion pages, along with a sampling of the responses to the previous week’s question. Send us your responses via electronic mail to tell-the-tech@mit.edu. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and MIT affiliation. If you’ve got suggestions for future questions, send them to suggestions@tell-the-tech@mit.edu

Michael J. Franklin '88, Eric Rich '95

The Photographs

Christopher Door G, Paulie Sinha G, Mur Hune '94, Cherry Ogata '94, Steve Hwang '95

The Columnists

Column by Anders Hove

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Should the Undergraduate Association President have complete disciplinary control of the 54,000 Vannevar Bush ’16 Fund each year?

Opinion Policy

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Letters, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreements with the opinion policy.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397329, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author’s signature, addressee, and home address, in that order. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

To Reach Us

Electronic mail is the easiest way to reach many of our staff. Mail to specific departments is welcome; please address them on the Internet: adsys@tech.mit.edu, news@tech.mit.edu, sports@tech.mit.edu, arts@tech.mit.edu, photo@tech.mit.edu, circ@tech.mit.edu (circulation department). For other matters, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person.

Send electronic mail to tell-the-tech@mit.edu with a short response (100 words or less). A sampling of responses will be in next Friday's Tech.