Opinion

Letters To The Editor

Vest Acted Irrationally in Refusing Freshman Picture Book

There is a picture of a monkey on the back page of the August 26 issue of The Tech. The picture was printed without racist intent by the editors. This picture cannot be reasonably considered racist in nature. Yet the same picture was banned from appearing on the Freshman Picture Book by MIT President Charles M. Vest because the symbolism of a monkey-type creature has traditionally been used in a racist manner.

Yes, there is a possibility that some individual could misinterpret this picture as being racist. Sadly, if such an individual exists at MIT, the administration should try to educate him about the nature of true racism and the dangers of cry wolf.

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I would prefer that President Vest allocate MIT's staff to a more fruitful debate about racism and to providing a diverse multicultural environment at MIT, not to running off after the appearance of a picture in a Freshman Picture Book which may potentially have offended one in ten of the members of the MIT community.

By recalling the book, President Vest lends credence to a witch-hunt culture of blame and false accusation. When Khomeini banned Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses because it was genuinely offensive to millions of people, it was transformed from an unheard-of book to a notorious novel by the heat it caused. This picture and the monkey business surrounding it, is likely to travel a similar road.

The Tech is published on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and is available in both print and online format.

The Tech, The Tech, The Tech

Column by Michael K. Chung

Sunday is usually associated with peace and quiet. But not this Sunday. We’re (or more appropriately, you’re) in the high point of rush—bulls start going out this morning at 8 a.m. Then, beginning tomorrow morning at the same time, you can start accepting bids and offering off that pledge

but then again, this time of the week is traditionally been used in a racist manner. Therefore I expect to be adequate parking space at the house, so I expect a

It may be easier said than done, however.

But during those early Sunday-morning hours, when you hear loud bursts of applause

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The Tech is published on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and is available in both print and online format. Whoever said that a picture is worth a thousand words? To me, that's a sentiment that's often lost in the heat of the moment. When you're faced with a situation that requires a quick decision, a picture can sometimes provide a clearer understanding than words alone. However, it's important to remember that pictures are not always reliable indicators of reality. Sometimes they can be manipulated or distorted for political reasons. The best way to interpret a picture is by considering the context in which it was taken and the source from which it was obtained.