Jim Smith...

The real liberals, those who adopt the title, not only are those who can afford more "green" (as they call it) but those who can afford the extra compassion demanded by a robbery, a car theft, or an assault. The liberal recognizes himself as an anonymous symbol—a white face among blacks. His acquaintance of beatings and robbers because of this recognition serves to reinforce his awareness of this symbol and is the genuine Christian act of "turning the other cheek." He looks like the Bible-singing George Wallace with scores.

Come-the-streets-is a good issue for the liberal. It poses the ultimate challenge to his political dedication. As with the reporter for the Washington Post, he awakens to his own instructors as they are working within other people just "liberal" than himself. The challenge then is to communicate to the reactionary the same arguments which he uses against his own reactions: the notion that everyone is a product of his environment and that he learns on the part of the blacks instates the environment they are subject to, that their actions are symptoms of more than an inferior mentality.

A black friend of mine runs a restaurant in Southern Washington. He put it best: "Once they have been taken to their feet, take that they are animals and now they get uphill when we start shitting in the barnyard."

Letters to The Tech

The meeting's purpose, as I inten- ded it, was to discuss suggestions for a new student government, so I was very turned on by the prospect of actually getting a chance to make student government a worthwhile thing. I have felt and seen around me real problems at MIT, and I was always belittled by our student government's seeming ignorance or disinterest in them. To be specific, I am talking about the way real and widespread problems associated by 1) tying up a young person's time with studies of science while having to chance the problems of choosing a meaningful career, developing a healthy emotional set and en- suring him to adopt a bachelor set of values, 2) living in an environment which somehow does not allow one to pursue his self-interests by keeping one too busy with externally imposed goals and studies which are of secon- dary importance to one's life. Again to be specific, I am in my short acquaintance with it, seemed to be mainly concerned with fixing elevator buttons, running errands for Spring Weekend and other such silliness.

Anyway, this meeting seemed like a beautiful opportunity to raise the prob- lems which a student government should confront and the form that one should take. It was frustrating at first that the administration were as histrionic as anything now existing, one proposal, when diagrammed, look- ed like an abstract cephalopod drawn with a flow-chart template. I felt, as did certain others, that any scheme of gov- ernment which did not affect a responsive channel of communication for the student body would be worth- less. A scheme which I proposed and one which I would like to support in this letter is a frequently scheduled meeting or forum, open to everyone, at which the students would present for discussion their views on matters of importance to them over which MIT has some control. MIT is a community small enough that such an ideal de- mocracy would be feasible, and no one can repress or do anything about a student's gripes better than that individual in collaboration with others of similar sentiments. If a telephone is unimmuned, it is necessary to devote all of one's time to its repair or to communi- cate only by employing whatever node sounds the telephone will pass; a clear line has the virtue of fading from important altogether to allow use to concentrate solely on the conversation remembering by the obstacles presen- t in the medium. Similarly, I feel that a simple and direct chance for the students to air their views regularly will dictate the real problems which confront MIT students.

It seems funny to me that student government should booun up so large in my mind, when it was previously for me only a matter of milding impor- tance. I guess it is because I have become excited by the imminent poss- ibility of a real community forum. The administration of this school think sincerely that they operate in your best interests when they 1) force persistent attention to studies by hang- ing grades over your head, 2) lead you to believe that you are growing up when you discover that in matters of relations with people, the evaluation of the importance of a future job to the community and the style of your day to day life, you are completely on your own, 3) cause you to forget that the lecture, recitation, problem set format is perhaps not the right way to cultivate a love for one's field of interest and to acquire the ability to actively explore it. If you are con- cerned about these or other problems, problem set format is perhaps not the right way to cultivate a love for one's field of interest and to acquire the ability to actively explore it. If you are con- cerned about these or other problems, the place should be announced soon.

For the sake of making this forum a permanent part of MIT, I strongly urge everyone to attend. It could turn into a weekly Columbia without tears. Robert C. Blum 69

Coise XVIII

The boy who likes to see protest de- monstrations could do the community a good service and have some real fun at the same time by conducting a protest demonstration at NBTA headquarters against the proposed increase in subway fares and the extreme poor subway service, especially on the Cambridge-Dorchester line and the dangerous conditions of the trains on that line caused by bad conductors. And if some scheme were proposed and accepted by the students instead of being rejected by the administration, it would be a clear example of the real problems which confront MIT students.

To the Editor:

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