To the Editor: In last Friday's The Black Side column, the author complains about the lack of "concern for equality" at MIT and then asks why blacks don't get more special treatment. Doesn't he know that it's against the law to discriminate?

If you, the editor, would like to be really liberal-minded, why not have a column for American Indian students, for left-handed Lithuanians, for Armenian midgets... the possibilities are infinite.

The author goes on to complain that MIT spends money building classroom buildings and dorms and says that instead the money should be spent to increase class size. This does not seem to be good economic policy.

Also mentioned in the article is a new black hat, KAP. I don't understand how one can get soirate about equal policies and then institute them themselves.

Although it is a commendable idea for the last black applicant to pay all-expenses paid trips to MIT for prospective students, to do so for only one minority group is to deny equality of opportunity to the majority and other minorities.

Let's not discriminate to end discrimination.

Susanna L. Kayton '78

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Blood Drive

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Acceptable Dangers

To the Oct. 7 issue of The Tech: reported two student deaths one due to apparent nitrous oxide poisoning, the other resulting from a mountain climbing accident. An important point is illustrated by the contrast in official reactions to these deaths.

When questioned about the "laughing gas" futility, Campus Patrol spoke of measures such as the confiscation of nitrous oxide tanks from students in order to discourage recreational use of the gas. However, the mountain-climbing futility did not provoke plans to confiscate students' hiking gear, rather, reaction to that incident stressed the safety precautions taken to reduce the danger to "one in a hundred thousand" unpreventable accidents.

My impression is that this disparity reflects the relative danger of the two recreations in question, the cultural judgment that one is more "worthwhile" than the other and therefore justifies a risk while the other does not. I suspect that no evidence exists that laughing gas is inherently more dangerous than mountain climbing or - more importantly - that it would be more dangerous if used recreationally in conjunction with safety precautions as rigorous as those developed for mountain climbing.

The suppression of a hazardous activity simply because it is deemed less meritorious than another comparably dangerous but socially sanctioned activity is wrong - not only because this is a forcible imposition of minority cultural standards, but because it increases the danger of the un sanctioned activity by diverting attention from the development and teaching of reasonable safety measures.

Gary L. Drescher '76

The Tech welcomes Letters to the Editor. Typed letters are preferred. Letters must be signed; names will be withheld upon request. Send letters to The Tech, W-2-483.