Letters to The Tech

Don't Take Risks With Human Lives

To the Editor:

There was a shocking article in Tech Talk on Nov. 5 about nuclear energy plants. The signers of this letter, whose blandly official prose proves to be merely informative but whose very objectivity washes out the meaning of the subject, seem to believe that the objectivity about human life and health is like the objectivity of counting corpses in a gurney; it treats people like so much health is like the objectivity of efficiency—and "progress." Anyone who can calmly gamble human lives as the way that this sort of pollution does not break down for the world into which we were brought to your attention for clarity. The Northeastern students that are enrolled in Air Force ROTC do not take the same curriculum as MIT Air Force ROTC students. The MIT cadets enroll in what we call the alternate curriculum program. Under this program, the MIT student takes some courses from Air Force instructors and some courses from MIT professors to complete the Air Force ROTC academic requirements. The Northeastern students take courses only from Air Force ROTC academic instructors, according to what we call the Air Force standard curriculum. The two academic programs are separate and different and Northeastern students do not register at MIT, take cars from MIT professors, or receive academic credit from MIT.

Perhaps one other comment is in order. I was under the impression that the purpose of Ms. Mannix's article was to portray the growth of ROTC at MIT. I am therefore surprised she did not comment on the significantly different readerhip. Condoms have been tastefully advertised elsewhere, and there is no reason why The Tech could not run such ads.

As for the defense that "The Tech would be far less professional if it carried ads," I think the effect is more directly linked to a whimsical minority's decision. I feel that you are dead wrong on both counts. First, I would not consider the people who write (or would be) disturbed by the ad a "whimsical minority." Second, the mass media are, whether they like it or not, a powerful political force, with astounding abilities. The "whimsical profession- alism" that The Tech attempts to use to justify its position is in itself a perversion of group of people just because they are a minority—Joel West '79

To the Editor:

Thank you for your interest in the ROTC program at MIT as evidenced by the recent Miss Mansanet article on Air Force ROTC. There is one area of confusion, however, which I would like to bring to your attention for clarification. The Northeastern students that are enrolled in Air Force ROTC do not take the same curriculum as MIT Air Force ROTC students.

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To the Editor:

In regard to Farrell Petter's article (Oct. 2) I must agree that he made gross misstatements and went overboard in reply raised more questions than it settled. Admittedly, there will always be some people that will take offense at some ads, whether they are for birth control, alcohol, or Army ROTC. And, admit- tedly, the former is no longer the volatile issue it used to be. The Tech says that "Peterson has chosen to take a regressive rather than a proactive view." It is unfortunate that the only way Peterson can play the game of name-calling. Also, I doubt I would have to go back to the Victorian era to find a time when birth control methods were not advertised in college newspapers. Besides, I do not believe that the main issue at hand is the idea of birth control. The ad has the option "delicately ribbed to help a woman let go," and declines in naughtiness from that point on. Whereas such an ad would offend no one if it appeared in Playboy, The Tech has clearly offended many people here in Cambridge, and many people here in the country. I was under the impression that the purpose of Ms. Mansanet's article was to portray the growth of ROTC at MIT. I am therefore surprised she did not comment on the significantly different readerhip. Condoms have been tastefully advertised elsewhere, and there is no reason why The Tech could not run such ads.

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