Faithness and morality

(A copy of this letter was sent to The Tech.)

To the Editor:

Recently, events have caused us to look at our general opinions of fraternities. Within the last few years, many people have been uncovered concerning one Ashmeur-Bush College organization. A number of fraternity officers had limited participation in campus life. Instead, they chose to spend their off-campus time with friends and girlfriends, who were not members of any fraternity. This practice seems to be characteristic of all fraternities at MIT.

The Tech has an article defending the fraternity system. I ask, what obligations are fraternity members to other MIT students? Let's look at the defenses of the program. The Tech article claims that fraternity brothers have the right to their past relations and cooperations last spring and last fall. The author then offers a few hard feelings may occur. This attitude is not consistent with our being social beings.

How much would including non-fraternity men really have made the campus socially united? I regret that our decisions may have caused a slight opposition effect. But that is due to the feelings of those who could not get a piece of the cake. The IFC-dorm men may be an effort to share a general offer made to the IFC. Granted, it may have been novel and generous to do so, but doesn't the IFC, like any organization on campus, have a right to conduct a social affair for its own members? I sympathize with the disappointment of the non-fraternity who could not take part, however, any feelings of anger and animosity are totally unwarranted. (If the Dormon chairman had been contacted by A-B, instead, I would not have declared the IFC's right to participate.)

2) There are a few disturbing statements in the editorial, stating, “that the facts apparently contradict the notion that the dorms are separate from the rest of the student body and cannot desire to make any effort to change this.” But, I think that the organizations may have been "corrupted" in "revealing" their true feelings about the fraternities. Fraternity is not a separate from the rest of the student body.

I was dismayed to read of the "strained relations" between the IFC and the dorms. I would appreciate learning of evidence to support this allegation. Over the three years I've worked with the IFC, I have not observed relations that can be described as "estranged." Quite the contrary. I was pleased and impressed with the IFC-Dormon relations last spring and last fall, in our efforts to help the R.O.I. Committee continue the relations between IFC and Dormon officers were very cordial.

This last topic is the one I feel most important. The IFC does not wish to cause alienation on this campus. It is contrary to fraternity raison d'être. I regret that a few hard feelings may have been caused; however, recent discussions with students and leaders of campus-wide events (the Fiji Island Party, PKS's Skullies, DU's Car Smash) last fall, with some help from the UA, the IFC sponsored a hand gun consultant in the Army. Plans are being formulated for considerable IFC participation in what we feel is an ill-timed Kaleidoscope.

Please tell me, just what are the organizations "true feelings" about others on the campus? At the risk of sounding facetious, I'd like to say that non-fraternity men were excluded, not because they are dorm residents or non-residents, but because they do not happen to be fraternity men, to whom the trip was offered.

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