opinion cont.

feedback

Administrative lack of candor

To the Editor:

I would like to express my displeasure at being misquoted in the April 27 Tech on the basis of a false impression. Prior to the beginning of Friday's rally, I was interviewed by a reporter who recorded what he said I had said. That interview was later published in the Tech under the title "行政上隐瞒真相".

As the Tech editor stated: "The Tech did not and do not "quote" anything from my interview, although my statements were accurately represented. Yes, there may have been a lack of candor in the administration's dealings. The following points should help to clarify that statement:

1) In the name of impartiality and "due process," the student body has been stonewalled with the "no comment." "we don't have all the facts yet" line. Yet it is private letter from Chancellor Gray to an individual student confidently assures him that the program "could serve no military purpose."

2) The Robbins Committee on International Institute Committee has no small difficulties in procuring certain key documents, e.g. a 3-page list of equipment on loan to the Taiwan group from Draper Lab.

3) The administration is unwilling to consider a temporary suspension of the program while the facts are gathered and judgement passed. To borrow Vice President Jones' judiciary metaphor, although innocence is assumed until guilt is proves, the suspect is generally incarcerated and bail set in accordance with the seriousness of the alleged crime. Guilt in this case means performing programs that may or may not be illegal. In this respect, the administration's refusal to consider this indicates to me that criminal activity was actually taking place.

4) It is not clear why the State Department has acquiesced to continuation of the program when none of its directives have been carried out. They called for complete disengagement from Draper Lab, yet Draper equipment and Draper personnel are right in there teaching. They called for termination of the hands-on training, but laboratory work proceeds apace; purportedly with inferior equipment, but this will remain in doubt until the equipment list can be examined. Is the Office of Munitions Export Control in fact satisfied with the nominal disconnection from Draper and the downgraded but continuing hands-on projects? Or have some important facts been withheld by MIT officials?

Although Wiesner and Gray did face the students last Friday, they managed to say nothing of substance. We have put our facts and opinions on the line. Why do they continue to play these Mickey Mouse games with us?

Deborah L. Brody '79

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After the Gonzo Governorship of Doonesbury's Uncle Duke come Garry Trudeau and Nicholas von Hoffman...is Samoa to be spared nothing?

When young Pulitzer Prize winner Garry Trudeau journeyed to the South Pacific to verify what the natives of American Samoa were really like, he wrote that Nicholas von Hoffman should go along to chronicle their experiences in the last outpost of American colonialism. Elizabeth Ashley and other friends went - perhaps the oddest cultural mission ever assembled. The story of their mission on the natives - recorded along with Hoffman's candid and unflinching views of the American people and American Samoa - is delightfully retold in Tales From the Margaret Mead Tower. Currently available at bookstores, The Doubledex exclusives: von Hoffman's glimpses into the private world and mind of Garry Trudeau and the first publication of the Margaret Mead hallmark - to be reprinted in book form.

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