Editorial

A free responsible press

We do not condone thursday's publication of "The Consumer's Guide to MIT Men," which appeared in their issue of April 28. The article, besides being in bad taste and offensive to many members of the MIT community, also directly injured many of those whose names were used without permission.

Though we agree that this incident, along with another recent past (such as the "Harrigan" letter), points up a serious problem in thursday's internal control, we do not feel that this lack of control is a master for the Committee on Discipline, the Dean's Office, or the Administration to unilaterally "call into the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs at Room W20-483." These matters should be dealt with, more than with the entire MIT community being the judge.

The Tech's column has a useful role as a newspaper on the MIT campus. However, an irresponsible presentation of their views which is potentially illegal is not good journalism.

We oppose the one-time publication which President Wiesner makes in his open letter to the MIT community published in Wednesday's Tech Talk that MIT must at least tacitly approve any opinions expressed by campus media. The right to responsibly discuss opinions and conduct of the community at large is central to the function and integrity of the campus press.

We would shut down thursday or to impose prior censorship on any campus publications. President Wiesner stated that this issue does not involve the freedom of the press. We believe it does, yet recognize that a free press implies a responsible press. We trust thursday will be allowed to retain its freedom and that it will accept its responsibility to the MIT community.

With great respects the opinion of The Tech on important issues. Decisions on the content of an editorial are made by the Editorial Board in a last, and our use of "the Chairperson, Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and the News Editors."