Responses draw dissatisfaction

To the Editor:

I would like to take issue with Tom Russo's letter to the Editor (The Tech, Tuesday, Sept. 20), in that he seems to take into consideration David Soule's right to free expression, but ignores the offense made in the Freshman Picturebook, which equally violates the equal rights of the Black students on campus. What Tom Russo seems to be saying is that there are two different kinds of equal rights and freedom of expression; in this case it is an effect important, our right to free expression, not theirs.

Second, in other articles, there seems to be a mention of the similarities of the situation to the American Consumer Guide article, published last year. The objection to the Consumer Guide article, in my opinion, appeared to be that it was morally offensive, rather than that it attacked certain members of the MIT community. More appropriate similarity to the current situation was the earlier objection by a number of concerned women on campus about misuse of sexual stereotypes in Last Word section in Chambers articles. As a matter of record, the editorial response to the allegations at that time was of no real importance to the situation.

Third point is, that neither David Soule or his colleagues' response ("Gorillas are indigenous to Africa."), seems to be adequate, in response to Professor Johnson's allegations; and may also mean that David Soule's publication, seems to me, the logical conclusion of the current whipped up hysteria against Soule's publications. As professor fertilizer did Amin. In his sense Soule is probably a victim of misjudgment.

The fourth point is that I make in connection with this matter, is to call attention to the shooting one might place to minority students (International Students included), to Redd Mezrich's article in the September 16th edition of The Tech, a letter from the Department of the situation."

Jeffrey Mogul '79
for the Managing Board of Technique 1978

Johnson's logic refuted

To the Editor:

"Reading the statement of charges against Mr. David P. Soule one is struck by the statement: "Being a person of normal or above intelligence, prima facie evidence of which is his prior admission to MIT as a regular student..." Asst. Professor Willard R. Johnson, being a person of normal or above intelligence must have been aware that this statement contained one or more of the following implications: any one of which would be inappropriate in a document to official complaints to the Committee on Discipline."

"That being a non-regualr student at MIT is not prima facie evidence of normal or above intelligence..." a. That inasmuch as MIT accepts students who are not of normal or above intelligence as non-regualr students, MIT does not require non-regualr students to be of normal or above intelligence..." b. That since MIT requires non-regualr students to have demonstrated a capacity to work at a reasonably high academic level, one does not need normal or above intelligence to do work at MIT at a reasonaable level..." c. That inasmuch as one does not need normal or above intelligence to be reasonably well in MIT courses, therefore regular students are accepted to MIT who do not have normal or above intelligence..." d. That as much as regular students are accepted to MIT who do not have normal or above intelligence, prior admission to MIT is not prima facie evidence that Mr. Soule has normal or above intelligence and the statement quoted was sacaricious. Any one of these implications would suggest that Asst. Professor Johnson not only harbours misguided views of MIT non-regualr students, but furthermore, since he signed this document and put this statement in an official complaint to the Committee on Discipline, his conceptions were as follows: Therefore, it would seem that according to Asst. Professor Johnson's criteria of extended rationality and/or prejudice..."

Robert van der Linden '81

To the Editor:

I was somewhat amazed by Prof. Johnson's references to the statements in Section 4, were simple statements of fact. Were of the form A is a subset of B. Therefore, all B arts in A. I was the blunt obviously absurd, not being an emotionally charged...

C.D. and E, but the others clearly were at the same form. At least Johnson in the Mathematics department my transfer application to Cal Tech would already in the mail. Robert van der Linden '81

Opinion

Feedback

Soulè's apology sincere

Editor's note: The following letter, submitted by one of the few students who originally brought forth grievances against the Gregg Thesis, was received by the Tech together with David Soule's apology letter. (See page 3.)

To the Editor:

As a Ugandan student at MIT, I couldn't help being involved in the Freshman Picturebook controversy. I have talked over the matter several times over the last two weeks with Mr. Soule. My impression is that Mr. Soule is in the process of realizing the basis of the pain (caused by the publication) among some members of the MIT Community. Furthermore I feel that his apology is sincere.

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