Colby got what he deserved

To the Editor:
I attended the LSC lecture by William Colby. I, too, was bothered by the chanting of a group of Iranian students. But I was angered more by the attitude of the audience. William Colby was director of the CIA. Senate investigations of the Agency uncovered flagrant abuses of its secret status. The CIA has been involved in illegal domestic mail openings for many years; it conducted surveillance of American protesters through Operation CHAOS even though the statute which formed the CIA specifically disallowed internal security activities.

A few months ago, the CIA used assassination and torture to further its goals — goals determined by President Nixon. This was not an overt military action; it was a covert activity which killed Vietnamese citizens suspected of being communist freedom fighters.

I was physically threatened and was told that my camera was endangered by the reaction of several people to my presence with a camera; I got my dollar's worth too. I saw Colby play on the ignorance of his audience, letting the audience's unfeelingness deal with the Iranians for him. And as I left I felt that nothing that the CIA or the Tech from people who were angry at the Iranians' mistreatment of Colby.

Scott Ferguson '78

A little tolerance can go a long way

To the Editor:
I wish to thank you for printing Brian Donovan's letter (Opinion, April 21). I hope that his style does not obscure the feelings he expresses therein. As one who has attended MIT for five years now, I can understand the concern of Brian's anger and frustration.

Brian, so much of what you say strikes home for me. I understand the rejection you feel when you attempt to share your enthusiasm for something (viz., calculation) and get the door shut in your face. I understand your confusion and pain when you bestially approach a woman, only to have her play games with you or treat you as an object to abuse. Even worse are the put-down contests men play with one another. Either you lose quickly, or you end up hating yourself for the way you have to treat others in order to avoid humilitating your self.

I can understand why you feel that life sucks. So it may be worth it to you if I share some of my own experiences, and how I have dealt with those same feelings. First, not everyone here sees money as paramount. During my time at MIT I have gone out of my way to spend time and make friends with people who value helping others above making money. Admittedly, you are right — this may affect my career adversely but a "successful" career is but one goal. Close friendships and personal happiness are just as important.

Second, a little acceptance goes a long way. Your next-door neighbor's comic book collection or summer job at McDonald's may seem incredibly boring to you, but they are interesting to him. He may not be able to admit it, but he will appreciate someone to talk with about those things. And concerning women, which women do you seek out — is it only the most attractive ones? If so, you are closing yourself off to a large number of potential friends. I have found the majority of women here to be warm and accepting people. Also, the fact that a particular woman is not ready for a relationship with you at this time does not mean that she doesn't care or wouldn't want to be friends on another level.

Some of my deepest friendships have been with women with whom I was in no way sexually involved.