Guest Column/Black Student Union

MIT race relations: a different view

Lawler in a Series

Race relations at MIT are poor to say the least. We are not talking about the overt instantaneous racial animus at MIT, but we are discussing the overall interactions among various racial groups.

The majority of Black people at MIT come from integrated environments and have previously interacted with white people. We assume that a large number of white people here also come from integrated environments. Therefore, a sudden split occurs.

The average Black person is subjected to racism personally directed at him sometime during each semester. Then, there are racial ideals which thoroughly bind him consciously and subconsciously to the environment (media, travel, legislation, family problems, etc.).

Residing in the Black dorm is a different way of life. It occurs before the Black student encounters the average MIT student.

We feel that living environments have a major bearing on a person's attitudes and degrees of self confidence. During high school years, a person's home is a place of security and support. A person could totally relax and escape adverse pressures and totally relax. Of course, a person's home is inhabited by his family who are more like than similar to himself. When a student comes to the constant pressure and stress associated with MIT, he seeks refuge with a surrogate family. Thus, guards hang out mostly with grudges, prejudices associated mostly with preconceived, etc. Therefore, it is not the MIT Black Student Union which discriminates but the perception of joining to a supportive and understanding environment which discourages most Black students from joining. So the problem is not Black and White in the lack of interaction among all factions of the MIT community. As Steve Somick stated, "Black students are the only group for whom this is immediately visible."

The dormitory situation can be and frequently is made unpleasant for a Black student by one constantly racist person. Some of the recreational and social activities of the dormitory residents may be distressful to Black students. Therefore, the dormitory (dormitory) of a Black student may be stress filled. We believe our tastes in order to mix for recreational and social activities of the dormitory residents may be distressful to Black students.

The dormitory is a reflection of the institute and its traditions. The dormitory is imnmediately visible."

It is extremely difficult to educate the ignorant about our sensitivities and destructive myths, we do not wish to be shouted at every incident. Yet, we do not wish to be shouted at. It is our duty to educate the uneducated so that racist views are not perpetuated. The days of turning the other cheek are gone. Yet, many of the Black students at MIT uncomprehendingly endure racial incidents. It would be horrible if we screamed at every incident. Yet, do not wish to be shouted at. It is our duty to educate the uneducated so that racist views are not perpetuated. The dormitory is imnmediately visible.

The special needs of Black students are to be determined by Black students themselves. One need not consider the past and present conditions and treatment of Africans globally to understand our edginess at the first sign of racism. It is only our duty to educate the uneducated so that racist views are not perpetuated. The Spring Weekend was well organized; indeed, this seems to be the major claim to fame. Such skill properly used could create a weekend for everyone. Several problems with the current set-up become quickly apparent. Using UA funds and donated materials to raise money is not right. These fund raisers.

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The Spring Weekend discussion will probably go on for a long time, but one thing becomes apparent: a large number of dormitory folk feel cheated or offended by it. Certainly, good things can be said for it, but whether or not it should become a tradition is another matter. No matter what the claims of its organizers, it did not reflect the needs of the whole MIT undergraduate community. The Spring Weekend was well organized; indeed, this seems to be the major claim to fame. Such skill properly used could create a weekend for everyone. Several problems with the current set-up become quickly apparent. Using UA funds and donated materials to raise money is not right. These are funds designated for social activities, not charity events. If we wish to contribute a sum to charity, let us make this donation through our student lawmakers to minimum cost to participants. The general point I'm trying to make is that this is not a good idea for next year. A number of things should be changed, others scrapped, and perhaps new events to interest more people should be added. Simply, we have the resources. All we need is to use them better.

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