Pi Lambda Phi displays hostility toward Gays

To the Editor:

We, the members of GAMIT, would like to express our shock and dismay at the recent incident involving the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. It is beyond our comprehension that an event which displayed such insensitivity and hostility on the part of some Gays towards MIT people could have occurred in the supposedly liberal and Catholic atmosphere at MIT. It is obvious that such callous indifference would not have been tolerated had the targets been Black or Jewish students; it can no longer be allowed against Gay students.

Despite claims to the contrary, the anti-gay rally was neither humorous nor harmless. Many of the people observing the rally, including some MIT students, believed it to be a serious event. Indeed, the opinions expressed in “hurt” at the rally are a massacre echo of statements that have recently been put forth by leaders of the Moral Majority in California. Regardless, humor is certainly not an adequate excuse, since malicious intent toward the object of humor may well be intended. The negative effect of this incident on the well-being of students at MIT and Harvard may be profound if those insecure or uncertain about their sexuality.

We, the members of GAMIT, are certain that if the targets had been the Catholic atmosphere at MIT. It is beyond our comprehension that an event which displayed such insensitivity and hostility on the part of some Gays towards MIT people could have occurred in the supposedly liberal and Catholic atmosphere at MIT. It is obvious that such callous indifference would not have been tolerated had the targets been Black or Jewish students; it can no longer be allowed against Gay students.

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The immediate concerns are those of yourselves as students at MIT and Harvard, both gay and non-gay. We would appreciate our interest in this matter, and desire to work more closely with the administration in the future to improve awareness and attitudes on campus so that future incidents such as this may be avoided.

GAMIT

Overdefending freedoms

To the Editor:

When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro.

In response to the insightful column in last Friday’s issue, I wish to agree that educational institutions unjustly encroach on student freedom. In addition I would like to comment on the following points:

1. No computation course should be required. But why stop there? MIT should simply eliminate computers, and provide an optional budget. A study of the saving would make an excellent UROP project.

2. All cafeterias should be open 24 hours a day, and should extensively extend their menus. Forced commons could be eliminated since everyone will be clamoring (especially between 2am and 5am) for fresh Alaskan King Crab.

3. CEIP imposes too many course requirements. This is obvious. The simple solution is to completely eliminate course requirements. When they feel the time is right, students should be able to pick up the degree of their choice from the Registrar for a small fee.

I can sympathize with the students who demand the right to “go to the bathroom when and where they want.” I have a 10-month old niece who makes the same demands.

Finally, the editor pointed out that a required computer course would have stopped her from attending MIT. The slightest possibility of such a travesty is unthinkable. What would MIT be without the wisdom and profundity of its fine journalists, like Stephanie Pollock?

Stan Suzuki

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