Harassment: time to defuse the bomb

Passage of a revised motion by the General Assembly concerning protection of rights of members of the MIT community reflects laudable recognition of a serious situation, but is only a beginning toward resolving a deeply emotional problem.

Tense student relations, whether based on feelings of racial, sexual or other types of prejudice, or on the more personal feeling of being asked to defend their position at MIT, are likely to well develop into a crisis. Actions which infringe upon the civil or personal rights of members of the MIT community, whether consciously or not, are a problem at MIT, and must be focused on the harassment time bomb while its incipient crisis is dormant.

It is unrealistic to assume that education alone will solve these problems. The affirmative action initiative of the new conservative Senator Orrin Hatch (Rep.-Utah) questioned Congress' authority to define the beginning of life.

An equally interesting and important question concerns the legitimacy of resolving questions of scientific uncertainty by legislation. Many important questions could also be answered, or at least circumnavigated, by Congressional definition: when is life? Is there a safety threshold for action of carcinogenic substances, or what the probability is of a major explosion can occur. In all the same way we think of the overall crisis. We don't have to go to the "Student Reading Room.

Pseudo-science in the Senate

A group of conservative congressmen have concocted a clever way to circumvent a controversial Supreme Court decision. The legislation is thus doubly dangerous, setting a precedent for justifying new equipment purchases out of institute funds, but to impose arbitrary limits on the number of instructions a student may execute on the time-sharing equipment. To the Institute's "computer center" text processing is often used for the 'tute's "computer center" particularly embarrassing. We've had to go to SIPB to get money to type letters to the Editor.

Pull up a piece of art and read the names

There are many things that a person can do in Killian Court. People play ultimate frisbee there, the Institute holds graduations and inaugurations there, and student groups there study there, and I go there to read the walls. Read the walls!... There is a wealth of history imbedded in the stone of Killian Court. On each of the four corner sections of the building are buildings that face the court, there are four sections, I'm sure everyone has noticed and recognizes the large names that grace the building: Franklin, Pasteur and Copernicus are three of the names that come to mind. But there are also many names in smaller print. Some of these are probably familiar, including Faraday, La Place, and Kepler, but who could recognize the names Anthonsius, Braschali, or Bullitch if they were not familiar with many of the famous architecture of history? Why did these particular men deserve to have their names engraved into the buildings of one of the great universities of the world?

There is a very simple way of getting a hint of who a particular person is by looking at the names with which he goes. Each face of the building represents a different field of science. If one walks down the western face, one sees names dedicated to men who contributed to the civil engineering profession. The common sewer's eastern face is dedicated to men of electricity, and so on. In all, the fields of architecture, physics, geology, thermodynamics, chemistry, and astronomy are represented. I should warn you that this generality about the field of study is only true for the small names, not the larger ones. For example, the south-west southern face is dedicated to thermonuclear physicists, but Copernicus is the large name.

Who are some of these people? Well, on the geology wall are the names Harvey, Lyell and Linnasius, among others. William Harvey is the discoverer of blood in humans, Sir Charles Lyell is one of the earliest geologists, and a founder of the so-called "principles of uniformitarianism," a theory that the earth is old. Theophile Linnaeus was the founder of the genera-species naming convention (biology), or the first professional US architect, Christopher Wren, the founder of the foundation of earth sciences). Among other names are many scientists who are familiar to historians of science. For example, Sir Humphry Davy, the creator of the miner's lamp and the first professional US architect, Christopher Wren, the founder of the foundation of earth sciences). Among other names are many scientists who are familiar to historians of science. For example, Sir Humphry Davy, the creator of the miner's lamp and the first professional US architect, Christopher Wren, the founder of the foundation of earth sciences).

To the Editor:

Dear Editor,

It is unlikely that in this age of incredible cheap microelectronics the ICP is lying in the dark ages. SIBP can buy a 400 Megabyte VAX for the amount of money they "spend" in two years! It is high time the Institute realized the cost of resources, and in particular text processing resources, are to be thought of in much the same way we think of libraries. We don't have to go to the "Student Reading Room."

To get money to spend time at Banker's Wharf, we have to go to SIBP to get money to type up papers. If one thing is clear, it is that the age of electronic editing and text processing is here. In an Institute such as ours where there is more competent power than any other is the world, the availability of what is supposed to be the "true" "computer center" is particularly embarrassing. We are supposed to be setting a precedent for the home-office/academic environments of the future. Just because MULTIC's hardware is ancient doesn't mean the methods of operation have to be. SIBP for sure cannot be blamed for this. They are a devoted group of (perhaps a bit eccentric) hackers who voluntarily help to any student in need. It is the bank with the biggest dollar that is responsible for the flask. The free way in which SIBP has been doing out dollars is proof that MULTIC's student body is well satisfied and not by the ability to pay.

The time for unlimited student text processing accounts on MULTIC is now. The ICP can keep track of the time spent for justifying new equipment purchases out of institute funds, but to impose arbitrary limits on the number of instructions a student may execute on the time-sharing equipment. To the Institute's "computer center" text processing is here. In an Institute such as ours where there is more competent power than any other is the world, the availability of what is supposed to be the "true" "computer center" is particularly embarrassing. We are supposed to be setting a precedent for the home-office/academic environments of the future. Just because MULTIC's hardware is ancient doesn't mean the methods of operation have to be. SIBP for sure cannot be blamed for this. They are a devoted group of (perhaps a bit eccentric) hackers who voluntarily help to any student in need. It is the bank with the biggest dollar that is responsible for the flask. The free way in which SIBP has been doing out dollars is proof that MULTIC's student body is well satisfied and not by the ability to pay.

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