On telling a fraternity you're gay

(Continued from page 4)

I am sorry to see the brothers think that it probably was best for me as well as everyone else. I don't remember how our discussion began, but it only ended more than two hours later and after Jim had joined us. We talked of many things concerning my homosexuality and the general noise, and they realized that homosexuality does not have to be an obstacle to becoming a brother of a fraternity. They wanted to request a general meeting of the brothers to talk about the issue, possibly with me being present to talk about my homosexuality as we had just done.

Through no fault of these two friends, the meeting did not take place. Why am I writing this column? Once again there are several reasons. I wish to make it clear that the distrusted versions of this story that some people may have heard, in which I was "kicked out against my will" or verbally mistreated, are inaccurate. I was treated, before as well as after, considerately and congenially — if somewhat hyperactively. I wish to clearly state that I am very satisfied with the end result; I am now living in a dormitory with lots of friendly men and women, several of whom know that I am gay and accept the fact as if it didn't matter. I suppose that if I had really wanted to get into DBS, I could have raised a big fuss and would eventually have gotten in. As I said earlier, however, I was determined to abide by their decision and would only accept an invitation; I did not feel that challenging them would have brought about constructive results. Above all, I came to like the brothers of DBS very much and in no way want them to get into trouble; hence the anonymity of my anecdotes.

Let's not kid ourselves: this is MIT and among the most intelligent students and teachers from all over the United States and the world come here to learn and to teach together. Doesn't intelligence bring understanding and tolerance of different lifestyles and cultures and the eradication of prejudices?

There are many people — not only in DBS, but in all the fraternities — who feel that having a gay brother invites disaster. I can only reply that there are many people in the fraternity system who are gay, although not always openly so to all, if any, of the brothers. In fact, I know of one person, an MIT graduate of several years ago, who was not only openly gay to all the other members of this house from the day he pledged, but also went on to become the treasurer. And the fraternity was DBS...

I hope that the next time an openly gay freshman raises a fraternity — any fraternity — that the issue will be handled more fairly by the rushers, and that the fraternity brothers will be able to welcome him with open arms and say "So what, who cares? We're more interested in you as a person." Does the day have to be so far off?

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Association of Student Activities
Executive Board

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Feedback

Audience ruined movie

(Continued from page 5)

Another school and constantly feeling the need to apologize for the behavior of my fellow students — during the slides, during the previews, during the dramatic parts of the film itself. MIT audiences simply will not shut up.

I don't claim to be an expert on movies or to recognize the merit in every movie I've ever seen, but I am always considerate enough to keep my reactions to what I'm seeing to myself. When watching a dramatic film, I have been enlightened by MIT audiences ever since I first came here, but when a crowd is obnoxious to the point of destroying the enjoyment of movie-going, I refuse to continue to just sit and clench my fists in frustration. Since I would rather not add my shouts of disapproval to the general noise, I am using The Tech as an appropriate outlet for my reactions.

I don't care if a college campus is supposed to be an atmosphere conducive to free speech, but I would certainly have stopped the simple pleasure of going to a theater, sitting quietly in a quiet crowd, and entertaining oneself only by enjoying the movie.

David Hermann '84