To the Editor:

A few days ago, I picked up our weekly campus paper we call The Tech, and read an article under the headline "MIT to get Homecoming queen." It's not really that interesting a headline, in itself; but there was something in the article that intrigued me, so I felt the need to express it.

In answer to the question of why we need a Homecoming Queen was given "it is an event that virtually every campus with a Homecoming uses." So, we have to do what other every campus does! And do it in the same way! The explanation typifies the continuing insistence of The Tech that we must become a "normal" student body, i.e. do what students elsewhere do. MIT is composed of highly intelligent and therefore unique individuals. And each and every student has the right to conduct his affairs as he wishes. Furthermore, it is said that some feel it necessary to imitate others to find their self-respect.

The election of the queen, as the article tells us, will be a serious issue. Students will elect the "court" by official ballot of some sort. MIT students, when the poor have no shelter, the sick find no care, and school children can barely find lunch, we at MIT will be wasting our precious time and energy to indulge in some middle-class young lady's fantasy by electing her to some meaningless position of "queen."

For my part, I liked the idea of the Ugliest Man on Campus competition. It gives a bit of humor and creativity to the Institute. It's a rather unique event to see UMOC crowned at halftime of the Homecoming game. Most importantly, it's good to know this event benefits not only MIT students, but the money raised benefits those less fortunate. For this competition voting is by cash donation, with the highest donation, with the highest benefit.

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