Editorials

Hold rally safely and on campus

While MIT's policy of restricting the use of MIT facilities to events directed primarily toward members of the Institute Community is generally a wise one, exceptions should be made when enforcement of the rule will contradict its purpose or conflict with public policies. Such an exception is needed this Friday for the planned demonstration against Vice President George Bush's speech.

The rally, originally planned for the Student Center steps, now must be held on the sidewalk on Massachusetts Avenue. The MIT Committee on Central America (COCA) withdrew its approval to use the steps after a publicity campaign attracted widespread support from off campus. The Campus Police (CP), however, do not feel that they will be able to "control a group of 500 to 1000 people that decided to come on campus."

Restrictions on the use of MIT facilities by outsiders are designed, in part, to protect members of the community. In this instance, however, better protection would be afforded by holding the rally on the Student Center steps, where CP's could better control the crowds. A sidewalk rally could also bring Cambridge policemen to MIT. Such intervention is generally discouraged by CP's.

COCA need not be given an unqualified permission to hold the rally on the Student Center steps. The group should accept responsibility for any damage or other problems caused by the rally before being granted special permission to hold it. Given such an agreement, the Institute should make a one-time exception to its facilities use rule.

MIT's primary interest in this decision is protecting its students' freedom of expression by students or others. A well-controlled rally on the Student Center steps would serve this purpose far better than a potentially explosive mob scene on the sidewalk opposite 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

End Homecoming Queen foolishness

The Football Club's valiant effort against Assumption College marked the close of Homecoming 1981, and with luck, the end of the great Homecoming Queen controversy.

While the Social Council undoubtedly meant well in proposing the Homecoming Queen contest, it should have abandoned ship at the first sign of trouble. Instead, it became developed and the debate spilled off campus, making MIT look foolish in many people's eyes.

Perhaps this year's fiasco has purged Homecoming fans of their need to elect a queen. The contest and little of the weekend for most and considerably diminished its attractiveness for many. If next year's organizers want Homecoming to be taken seriously, they should find less divisive and more effective ways to promote school spirit.

Plan not to eat at Walker

To the Editor:

As of today (Oct. 25), the dish machine at Monsa Hall (Walker Memorial) has been broken for approximately four weeks. The temperature in the final rinse section has been between 120 and 130 degrees farahrenheit. State health codes require this temperature to be above 180 degrees. Efforts by the student captains and dish crew supervisors to have the machine fixed have failed. Since students are being forced to eat on commons, we feel it is the responsibility of Dining Service to keep the machine working so that these required meals can be kept free of contamination. But whether you eat at Walker because you are forced to or by your own choice, we suggest that you make other plans for your meals until the machine has been fixed. This will prevent the very real possibility of spread of disease and it will demonstrate your concern for this problem.

Signed by 8 Morris Hall student captains and 4 dish crew supervisors.

No one asks for rape

To the Editor:

We commend Mr. Phil Westmoreland for his sensitive remarks in his letter to the Editor entitled "Stories on Women have Disastrous Implications."

T'ai Du's radical thinking is dying on campuses

To the Editor:

I don't know whether The Tech accepts cartoons as a feedback. But the following drawing certainly tells you how I felt about this T'ai Du (Taiwan Independent) group's radical way of thinking. Their desire to provoke violence in Taiwan and anything the Taiwan government does there, they oppose it here. They will never acknowledge the fact that Taiwan is one of the fastest GNP per capita growth country in the third world and also that there was achieved with well-balanced wealth distribution; average income of the top one-fifth population is only 4.1 times that of the lowest one-fifth ones in 1981. More importantly, the democratic progress there in recent years is very encouraging as anyone who follows the news there can tell you. Fortunately, this radical T'ai Du group is a dying species on campus. They have to call people outside MIT to write letters to this campus newspaper to make them noticed and they can only drill on the same thing, again and again. I hope that after all this (Please turn to page 5)