Column distorted facts

To the Editor:

I condemn McConnell's story "Taiwanese Fears . . ." (The Tech, Oct. 27), for using purposefully distorted information to support alleged report. If the objective of that story was to stir the Chinese community and to excite general reader in MIT, I can understand the use of allegations. However, if the author was trying to discuss politics in another country, I demand facts be used.

McConnell states "The Formosa . . . magazine was closed in early 1980 and its leaders arrested and convicted of trumped-up sedition charges." Are those really circumstantial evidence? A brief description about the whole incident will clear up reader's doubt.

According to the evidence and testimony presented in the court, Formosa Magazine Association (FMA) applied for a permit to hold a demonstration in downtown Kaohsiung. The principal reason for refusal was that the application of participants estimated by FMA organizers was likely to disrupt traffic and order. But FMA decided to deny the police order and follow through with their plans. They recruited at least 1000 hoodlums from all over Taiwan and based them to Kaohsiung with prepared clubs, iron bars, torches, bottles of gasoline and hydrochloric acid.

When it became apparent that FMA was making preparations for violence, the police finally approved of a rally, but not a march. The leader of the event agreed to this plan and promised that the rally would be peaceful. Nevertheless, they broke their promises with a march that damaged public properties and seriously injured 183 unarmed policemen. If facts were not provided to the reader for any reason, I couldn't figure out the logic of promoting alleged report. Justice Holmes once said that the right of free speech would not protect one who falsely showed "fire" in a theater and caused a panic. Although I still don't believe there are spies in MIT, McConnell's story do generate fears in MIT Chinese community.

For Chinese students in MIT have been trying to build up friendship and to develop a means of communication between fellow students with different political views. I deeply regret that these efforts are hurt from time to time by irresponsible statements.

Nancy Withheld by Request

Chen case not closed

To the Editor:

In October 27th's Guest Column and last week's feedback, the Chen Wen-Cheng case was mentioned. All were based on or implying a premise that Chen's death was the work of the government of the Republic of China.

To my knowledge, that case has not been closed yet, although many US press have already jumped to their own conclusions—"proclaimed from their distant razing of the fire-barrier. . . ."

The investigation of the Chen Wen-Cheng case is still going on. Any person who is interested to have a detailed and fair picture of the case, I would suggest him read the special report entitled "Suicide, Accident or Murder?" appeared on Oct. 16th's A.sicaweek. The investigation of the Chen Wen-Cheng case is still going on. Any person who is interested to have a detailed and fair picture of the case, I would suggest him read the special report entitled "Suicide, Accident or Murder?" appeared on Oct. 16th's A.sicaweek.

In order to balance some of the prevalent impression regarding the responsibility of the case, I would like to quote few interesting analyses from the above-mentioned article.

On the "possibilities" of Chen's death, it is stated: "Suicide. Although Chen was presumably not the suicidal type, neither are many people who end up taking their own lives . . . perhaps a deep, double-edged feeling for regret — for past actions, and for betraying his friends by cooperating with the government — was enough to push Chen over the edge."

"Muder. . . . it is difficult to see how the government would go out of its way to kill a scholar who had apparently decided to cooperate fully with it, whose return was requested by members of the academic community in the US . . . to do so on the eve of the National Reconstruction Seminar in Taipei, through which the government — was enough to protect one who falsely shouted "fire" in a theater and caused a panic. Although I still don't believe there are spies in MIT, McConnell's story do generate fears in MIT Chinese community.

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