MIT alone does not guarantee success

The deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed last week, to the chagrin of supporters and glee of opponents. The ERA is no panacea for achieving equal rights, Phillips contends. The ERA, many times last week I heard, "Women don't need the ERA; they have equal rights already."

At MIT, this sentiment is too often expressed. Attendance at this elite university, which makes educated women confident that education will protect them from the evils of discrimination that lurk in the marketplace and afflicts only the uneducated, poor, and/or unconnected. Who needs equal rights? MIT indoctrinates us all to believe we are superior to other known life forms. Yet all women, even those fortunate enough to have MIT on their resumes, are far from achieving equality. Widespread acceptance of the contrary is the most pernicious, and lasting legacy of Schlaly and STOP ERA.

Equality is a concept that can not be readily quantified. As Phillips diverted attention to those who flushed what, to defend the compelling economic success stories that are central to the struggle for women's equality, Widespread acceptance of the contrary is the most pernicious, and lasting legacy of Schlaly and STOP ERA.

So the light goes on. Despite some laws to the contrary, women, even those from MIT, have not achieved equality in the workplace, nor must one think Phillips Schlaly is wrong in saying the ERA is no panacea for achieving equal rights, and even after its passage, much remains to be done. Yet both women and men deserve sexual equality.

So the fight goes on.

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SENIOR EDITORS

LOOK GUYS...WHY DON'T WE JUST SAY THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL...AND LET THE LITTLE LADIES LOOK OUT FOR THEMSELVES?

Baker House not maintained

To the Editor:
Every time I manage to get to Cambridge, I make a point of visiting Baker House, designed almost forty years ago by the late Alvar Aalto, and still one of the most extraordinary examples of the work of that extraordinary architect. Indeed, in some respects, Baker House is probably the finest modern building in the Greater Boston area.

After my most recent visit, I am not sure I ever want to come back. One assumes, of course, that a student dormitory will be subjected to a certain amount of abuse; still, one also assumes that an institution of higher learning, like MIT, which boasts one of the finest Schools of Architecture in the world, would maintain a great building like Baker House at least minimally. This assumption is unfounded. Baker House, as currently maintained, is a cross between a dump and a garbage dump, and a disgrace to MIT. Perhaps this marvellous building is not appreciated by your institution, and should be taken over by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, or by Walt Disney Enterprises, and maintained in a manner that befits a truly civilized institution.

Peter Blake, FAIA
Chairman, Department of Architecture and Planning
The Catholic University of America

It's been like this since that Nobel Prize sperm bank opened...