Jenri-Lynn Scofield

True confession

Now is the time for me to come out of the closet and let all of MIT know: I am a social science major. Thag seems like a relatively simple statement, yet many forces at MIT prevent undergraduates from making such a declaration. Personal preconceptions, parents, and professors often push students interested in majoring in some areas of social science away from that perspective and back to the more traditional MIT thrust of engineering or natural science.

Yet, as I continue my fourth year at MIT, I can share a secret I have discovered that some people find John Locke more fascinating than second-order differential equations. The third category fears for my future: they are afraid I might someday be forced to join the army of the unemployed who ramshackle Central Square thriftshops.

Yet I don't believe the worth of an undergraduate education should be evaluated solely by the number of jobs I qualify someone to perform after graduation. All too often undergraduates decide what to major in based on what they can earn when they graduate. While future job prospects are indeed important to consider, they are often largely irrelevant, especially to students intending to attend graduate school. Job markets change, money shifts, and the best academic interests are often lost amid the clutter.

On the other hand, the world. Professors not overburdened with students often have time to provide useful feedback on work, rather than allowing teaching assistants to scrawl arbitrary grades on a few assignments each semester. It is possible to run such classes like true seminars, where professors meet individually with students and discuss mutually interesting subjects, rather than dictating or being dictated to.

It is its possible to run such classes like true seminars, where professors meet individually with students and discuss mutually interesting subjects, rather than dictating or being dictated to. Professors are not overburdened with students and often have time to provide useful feedback on work, rather than allowing teaching assistants to scrawl arbitrary grades on a few assignments each semester. It is possible to run such classes like true seminars, where professors meet individually with students and discuss mutually interesting subjects, rather than dictating or being dictated to. Modest academic interests, and future plans; I wonder how many other students while here, and are not forced to shift attention to expected future salaries in order to make students forgo large classes, overcrowded facilities, and professors who don't recognize their own students.

Whenver I admit I'm a political scientist, people show one of three reactions: disdain, disbelief, or despair. Some "friends" view my interest in political science as vindication of what everyone already "knows": women can't cut engineering or science courses. Others can't understand that some people find John Locke more fascinating than second-order differential equations. The third category fears for my future: they are afraid I might someday be forced to join the army of the unemployed who ramshackle Central Square thriftshops.

student unamused by posters

To the Editor:

We never cease to be amazed by what's passing for funny these days. Just this morning the halls of the Institute were littered with counterfeit G&MT posters. Did you see one? It talked about butts and mayonnaise and cock rings and all sorts of neat stuff. Some people saw them and grinned, or chuckled, or said, "What a neat hack."

A well-planned hack is the correct phrase. Someone put a great deal of time into these, hoping to amuse us all.

We are not amused. How cruel and senseless can people be? Would that sort of abuse directed at any other minority seem as funny? Have we really reached the point where that style can be viewed as good-natured hacking? Stop and think a minute. Imagine being gay, trying to decide whether or not to "come out", and being dramatically confronted with this sort of sleazy, cheap sleaziness. Imagine being made the butt of jokes for feeling affection towards someone who you know that what's inside is always more vicious than betraying someone's faith in people. Bob Halman

Dean asks for help in poster incident

To the Editor:

It was most disheartening Thursday morning to find that persons as yet unknown had created and displayed widely a poster which is clearly offensive to the majority of the MIT Community and certainly appears to contain predisposed harassment of an important minority. Harassment on the basis of sexual orientation as well as race, color, sex, religion, and national origin is a serious offense at MIT as stated in Conduct, Discipline and Grievance Procedures (pages 36-39 of the 1982-1983 Bulletin) and I would appreciate help in identifying those responsible. Unfortunately such people have often been able to depend on the reluctance of any witnesses to become involved. I hope in this instance anonymity will not serve as a shield.

Bob Halman