Intolerance must be banished

The vandalism committed this week against the GAMIT office has left me enraged at my unfinancial colleagues who perpetrated the at- tack. I am indebted to the second protest assault on gay students on campus in the last two months. Gay persons everywhere suffer private abuse all too often: they should not have to undergo public humiliation as well. I, and many other students currently studying here, hoped that at MIT — an institution that prides itself on its enlightened policies — we would learn to be tolerant of the rights of all fellow members of the community.

No institution can be obrigatory that official discrimination against students on account of sexual preferences. Unfortunately, this simple, unambiguous rule does not protect gay students from being attacked, insulted, and slandered by their fellow students. Unfortunately, the harassment endured by gay students is all-too-prevalent at MIT. And they are not alone. Many other members of minority groups on campus — women, foreign students, minority group mem- bers, and even whitecollars of certain failings — have also suffered the stings of similar intolerance. Last fall, one black student received a death threat in the mail that included several malicious references to his race. The Institute’s position prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, and ethnic origin, yet this official position is of lit- tle consolation to those harassed, since some members of the MIT community have obviously chosen to ignore it.

In recent weeks, I have become acutely aware of how far MIT’s educational policies and how far they are harmful to its students. Yet on the issue of civil rights, MIT the institution holds an admirable public position. It is upsetting that it can not be upheld by all members of the community. The different opinions of some misguided souls on campus — expressed in cowardly, insecure ways, always secretly — are clearly out of place. As students at MIT, it is our responsibility to embracem the community. The vociferous opinions of some misguided souls on educational policies and how they are harmful to its students. Yet on race, sex, religion, and ethnic origin, yet this official position is of little consolation to those harassed, since some members of the MIT community have obviously chosen to ignore it.

Japanese on economic warpath this time

This Tuesday will mark the 41st anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on De- cember 7, 1941. Since that day, relations have apparently improved. Is it necessary? Should we have expected the attack and prepared ourselves for it? How could we be so unprepared? The Japanese burned us badly that day, and we have not forgot- ten. But we have not learned our lessons, either. The Japanese are attacking us again, but this time it is on the economic battlefield. Once more, the stakes are high — the future of our economic prospects are at stake. But as in 1941, our leaders have not fully recognized the problem, and our govern- ment’s response has been clumsy and ham- fisted.

Consumers know about Japan’s increasing economic influence. We are one of five cars sold in America today. In fact, except for occasion=al announcements of “voluntary” Japanese restraints on auto or steel exports, President Reagan has ignored the US-Japan trade issue. He does not see to realize that Japan’s economic strength accounts for part of our econom- ic weakness. Democratic leaders like Tip O’ Neil, Edward Kennedy, and Wa- ter Mondale have recognized this problem, but their solutions are not as good as President Reagan’s.

Japanese on economic warpath this time

And Japan is moving ahead in the high-technology industries of the future. It has captured over 40 percent of the critical semi- conductor market in this country. It has 60 percent of the world market in 64K memory chips, and it is planning to challenge us in the areas of fiber optics, ro- botics, homebrewing, and com- puters.

Unfortunately, it is now com- mon for people to refer to our country as a “colony” of Japan. In this year alone, our trade defi- cit with Japan will be in the $20 to $25 billion range. We sell Japan fuel, coal, wood, and other raw materials, and it sells as finished goods. Former Vice President Mondale has even warned that today’s teenagers may end up spending their lives “sweeping up around Japanese computers and—serving” McDonald’s hamburgers.

The Reagan Administration, however, does not even know there is a battle going on. The

President is so intent on deterring the Soviet threat that he has fa- iled to notice that we are sink- ing in economic quicksand im- ported from Japan. The Adminis- tration’s willy-nilly defense boul- davert is hardly needed capital, technology, and skilled man- power away from com- merical applications. In addition, the President’s cuts in funding for higher education and civil sci- entific R&D are hindering our ability to build a technological base for the industries of tomorrow. In fact, except for occasion=al announcements of “voluntary” Japanese restraints on auto or steel exports, President Reagan has ignored the US-Japan trade issue. He does not see to realize that Japan’s economic strength accounts for part of our econom- ic weakness. Democratic leaders like Tip O’ Neil, Edward Kennedy, and Wa- ter Mondale have recognized this problem, but their solutions are not as good as President Reagan’s.

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