The MIT women's volleyball team traveled to the NCAA Division III Championships last weekend and returned as the fourth-best team in the nation. Coach Karen Atkinson and her team deserve congratulations for the most successful season of any team in MIT history.

Many athletes understand what competition at the national level entails: long hours of dedicated practice and unfailing concentration. The benefits to athletes that follow those sacrifices are evident in both the short and long runs, providing an outlet for daily stresses, and goads to pursue other sacrifices. Athletic activity at all levels allows one the chance to escape from the normal academic environment.

The volleyball team exemplifies what students can achieve through perseverance, dedication and support. All members of the MIT community should be proud of their achievements.

The Tech