To the Editor:

If I am to understand David Greenberg '86 in his letter to The Tech regarding Simson L. Garfinkel's recent series of articles, he feels that, because Garfinkel uses correct grammar and writes often, his frequent appearance in The Tech is justified. Even as I write this letter, I am still trying to figure it out. To suggest that, if Garfinkel ceases to write for The Tech, then The Tech will have to start charging its customers, is absurd. In fact, there are a great many things I would rather see in The Tech than another five-part series on education (or anything written in a similar vein), including record, movie, and stage reviews, restaurant reviews, even more letters to the editor. To imply that The Tech is that short of help seems to be somewhat insulting, at the very least.

Which, of course, brings us to Garfinkel's reply regarding the letters written about his series. He seems to feel that, if a column "stimulates discussion in the MIT community," then it is worthy of being published. However, it seems that the only discussion among those the people with whom I live (and, indeed, among those who wrote letters to The Tech) concerns how utterly unreasonable Garfinkel's ideas are, and speculation regarding why he is still allowed to write for The Tech. I would like to see more columns which stimulate discussion; however, I would also prefer that the articles have some literary and political merit. When someone suggests that 1) MIT should teach three times as much material as it teaches now, 2) the students should remember everything to the smallest detail, 3) the academic workload should be reduced, and 4) the student should have increased non-academic free time, then that someone should consider, at the very least, a career as a writer of fantasy, not as a writer of political views. In the same vein is the suggestion that MIT abolish tuition, earning money from patents and royalties, and allow only students who "benefit" the community to attend. If such is the case, Garfinkel, how much money are you earning for the Institute?

Adam Bernard '86