MIT should set an example

(Continued from page 11) regularly repeating others’ words, about “characters stripped of their personalities.” This is not in the world can strip any of their personalities, but as long as any of these two exist. No one. Orwell’s inventions, as all allegories were a stylization and a removal from the context of reality. Even in their psychological helplessness they were greatly exaggerated. Most Russians are not maimed psychologically any more than most Americans. The two groups are just manipulated by different economic situations. Most Russians lead less comfortable lives than most Americans. America’s political structure is democratic. But the essence of a democracy is measured not in the present order but in its potential to resist self-destruction. The ex-istence of democratic parties is of little importance. Freedom is not a legal right, but a naturally occurring state. If it were, there would be nothing to do but fight against diseases, earthquakes, floods, droughts, storms and un-trivialized radiation. If it were, the grotesque psychological warfare Orwell illustrates would have been meaningless, its fears unfounded. But “normal life” is a daily proof of our incredible difficulties in dealing with our own, not to mention others’, freedom. To tie our thoughts, be they whatever, to an assigned set of 366 days will lead to very feeble results. To refer to Orwell’s book — a literary work — in social or political terms is no more appropriate than to quote Gulliver’s Travels in an election campaign. On the contrary, Gulliver’s Travels is less dangerous, for it has been forgotten by the mass me-dium.

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