Little positive in most letters

To the Editor:

Over the past year, Robert E. Matchman and I traded about every printed insult imaginable, which was no doubt amusing to some readers of The Tech. Unfortunately, the real issues (if, in fact, there were any) were never seriously discussed at that time. More recently, I have been called "Feedback, April 27" a racist, an intellectual and a "careerist student politician," whatever that is. I was so anguished in last Friday's letter to get "beats up" in the South African mines. Again, this sort of thing was amusing in anyone who picked up The Tech, especially my friends. However, a few "jewy" phrases are all anyone seems to remember of the letter.

My letter, a response to Shiva Ayyadurai's letter, ignored the central issue and picked on Ayyadurai's writing style. In reading his original letter, I sympathized with him, but thought his method of presenting his argument to be biased. I also pointed out what I felt was a gross oversimplification, on his part, of the South African situation, but failed to elaborate. Simply put, I thought Ayyadurai's letter was not at all thought-provoking; my letter, in turn, was pretty trivial.

Then a third letter appears from more references to me and my personal attributes than to the South African problem itself, which psychoanalyzes me and concludes that I am a racist myself, which psychoanalyzes me and concludes that I am a racist myself. Again, this sort of thing was innocuous, and even interesting. I seriously doubt that the editor of The Tech has ever read the book, so I have not understood what Gottlieb's column.

In trivializing women's issues Gottlieb trivializes herself. Or does she consider herself to be above all the fray because she is "excellent" enough to be at MIT: "if it to ten mediocre male engineers there is one exceptional professional, the male/female ratio at MIT and the frontal office to change it become pitilessly meaningless." Gottlieb is going to be confusing excellence with surrounding sexism barriers that have nothing to do with technical mastery. What is wrong with the ten average (for MIT) female engineers alongside the ten average male engineers? Will the sandbox dissolve her achievements at MIT, if there is another box around?

We implore you to seriously consider what we have to say. Your staff and represent the opinion of the newspaper, especially my articles, makes her and her sometimes embarrassing. 

Mike Witt '84

TRIVIALIZING OF WOMEN'S ISSUES IS DISCRIMINATORY

To the Editor:

The recent column by Jacqueline Gottlieb [April 24] contains the usual self-centered and self-righteous polemic that is typical of the 'real issues (if, in fact, there were any) were never seriously discussed at that time. More recently, I have been called "Feedback, April 27" a racist, an intellectual and a "careerist student politician," whatever that is. I was so anguished in last Friday's letter to get "beats up" in the South African mines. Again, this sort of thing was amusing in anyone who picked up The Tech, especially my friends. However, a few "jewy" phrases are all anyone seems to remember of the letter.

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The Tech

Labor Day Weekend

Travis DeYoung

Dear President Gray:

We, the students of MIT, are writing to oppose the commons. The Tech, columns represent the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the newspaper. We encourage the airing of a variety of opinions on issues of concern to the MIT community.

Eagyls, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, represent the official opinion of the newspaper, and not necessarily that of the author.

Letters to the Editor are written by members of the MIT community and represent the opinion of the writer, and not necessarily that of the newspaper.

All submissions should be typed, double spaced, on a 57-column line and bear the authors' signatures. Unsigned letters will not be printed, but authors' names may be withheld upon request.

On Friday, May 4, 1984, The Tech received the right to edit or condense all letters.

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