MIT needs more humanities

To the Editor:

Science and Engineering is all-consuming at MIT. The Institute's version of its Humanities and Social Science program is long overdue. As present, the undergraduate HASS requirement does not necessarily expose the student to a broad enough range of liberal arts ideas. It is too easy to limit study to areas that are largely quantitative, like economics. The "pure" humanities courses that are available do not push students to improve their reading and writing skills, or present class to explore their limits of comprehension.

We suggest the following to the committee:

1. Impose a more hard- nosed grading policy in humanities subjects.
2. Establish a core curricu- leum including requirements in literature, psychology, writing, and science, technology, and society (STS).
3. Exclude the Economics concentration in humanities.
4. Offer an ethics course.
5. MIT's rigorous enforcement of the humanities component of its education should compel students to take the liberal arts more seri- ously. Heightened awareness of the world around us, a crucial half of the college experience, is neglected at MIT. The highly specialized math and sciences are disproporti- onately developed.

But that's why we came here, right? True, but we owe the techni- cal community competence in com- munication, a mature ethical ap- proach, and sensitivity to human needs. The scientific community is ultimately a social one, and in view of technology's awesome power, has great responsibilities. MIT will fail to reach goals of a complete education if it allows students to re- main isolated in technical vacuums.

The goal of the liberal arts and social sciences is to develop this hu- man awareness. If the proposals above were instituted, a narrowly- focused student reluctantly entering above was drawn by him because it was obtained under duress. Shipman may be too naive to realize that torture is a daily occurrence in South Africa's jails, but inter- national observers to the trial (IPlfIAV)

To the Editor:

Execution of South African poet Moloiiso is controversial

Joseph Shipman's column ("Globe upends on South Africa's death," Oct. 23) stands badly in need of a rebuttal. Not, as you, because the Globe is doing such a wonderful job on report- ing about events in South Africa (I do its correspondent obvi- ously prefers the Boers' country clubs to first-hand investigation on the frontlines) but because Shipman is seriously mistaken on two counts.

First, the international uproar about the execution of Benjamin Moloiiso arose to a large extent due to the controversial state of the evidence presented against him. He himself denied the deed and the ANC in a rare statement supported his claim; a supposed confession of Moloiiso's was with- drawn by him because it was obtained under duress. Shipman may be too naive to realize that torture is a daily occurrence in South Africa's jails, but inter- national observers to the trial (IPlfIAV)

opinion

MIT needs more humanities

To the Editor:

Science and Engineering is all-consum- ing at MIT. The Institute's version of its Humanities and So- cial Science program is long over- due. As present, the undergraduate HASS requirement does not nec- essarily expose the student to a broad enough range of liberal arts ideas. It is too easy to limit study to areas that are largely quantitative, like economics. The "pure" humanities courses that are available do not push students to improve their reading and writing skills, or present class to explore their limits of comprehension.

We suggest the following to the committee:

1. Impose a more hard- nosed grading policy in humanities subjects.
2. Establish a core curricu- leum including requirements in literature, psychology, writing, and science, technology, and society (STS).
3. Exclude the Economics concentration in humanities.
4. Offer an ethics course.
5. MIT's rigorous enforcement of the humanities component of its education should compel students to take the liberal arts more seri- ously. Heightened awareness of the world around us, a crucial half of the college experience, is neglected at MIT. The highly specialized math and sciences are disproporti- onately developed.

But that's why we came here, right? True, but we owe the techni- cal community competence in com- munication, a mature ethical ap- proach, and sensitivity to human needs. The scientific community is ultimately a social one, and in view of technology's awesome power, has great responsibilities. MIT will fail to reach goals of a complete education if it allows students to re- main isolated in technical vacuums.

The goal of the liberal arts and social sciences is to develop this hu- man awareness. If the proposals above were instituted, a narrowly- focused student reluctantly entering above was drawn by him because it was obtained under duress. Shipman may be too naive to realize that torture is a daily occurrence in South Africa's jails, but inter- national observers to the trial (IPlfIAV)

To the Editor:

Execution of South African poet Moloiiso is controversial

Joseph Shipman's column ("Globe upends on South Africa's death," Oct. 23) stands badly in need of a rebuttal. Not, as you, because the Globe is doing such a wonderful job on report- ing about events in South Africa (I do its correspondent obvi- ously prefers the Boers' country clubs to first-hand investigation on the frontlines) but because Shipman is seriously mistaken on two counts.

First, the international uproar about the execution of Benjamin Moloiiso arose to a large extent due to the controversial state of the evidence presented against him. He himself denied the deed and the ANC in a rare statement supported his claim; a supposed confession of Moloiiso's was with- drawn by him because it was obtained under duress. Shipman may be too naive to realize that torture is a daily occurrence in South Africa's jails, but inter- national observers to the trial (IPlfIAV)

opinion

Friday, November 1
9 pm - 1 in the Sala
it's the
POST-HALLOWEEN
MASQUERADE

[Opening band to be announced) featuring:

New Man

Prizes for best costume include:

1st PLACE: sony portable compact disc player
& more

Epic recording artists

Sponsored by the Student Center Committee
Proper ID required