Academia monitors not active at MIT, Wellesley

(Continued from page 7) professor Howard Zinn, Harvard professors George Wald and John Weinsch and University of Massachusetts at Amherst Professor Samuel Bowles, according to Scully. AIA has not yet mentioned any MIT professors, according to Scully. AIA "doesn't want to be a political faction," he explained. He believes in the idea of self-censorship, which he defined as an intellectual discipline that a rational person imposes on himself. Zinn believes that "Now it doesn't matter if they [AIA] have one student or two hundred working for them because an atmosphere of intimidation is all they need," according to the Oct. 29 Wellesley Tab. "I think it's had a chilling effect on both professors and students."

Bowles had asked that the AIA monitor or monitors in his classes announce themselves, he said in the Globe. So far, he added, no one has come forward. "I would welcome members of AIA attending my classes and participating in discussions, but the pressure by a politically motivated group to place informers in classroom, not for the purpose of education, but to monitor what one feels is the accuracy of it is not something I think we need."

AIA's efforts are "neo-McCarthyism," he said. Their plan will backfire, Bowles explained, because so obvious that what this particular segment of the right is interested in is not so much accuracy, but rather intimidation. The university community will be almost unanimous in rejecting these efforts. "[AIA] is another in a series of blunders that the right has made on social issues," he continued.

Csorba said in the Globe that students should directly confront their professors before contacting the AIA, "but we realize some students should directly confront their professors before contacting the AIA, "but we realize some people will be threatened, and who will feel confronting teachers or who feel they don't get satisfaction should report to AIA any comments they deem questionable," he added.

Jordan Kurland, associate general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, stated in the Globe that "I don't think academic freedom is in general will be threatened, but individuals will get hurt. The potential for abuse is immense."

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