Support full divestment at elections tomorrow

To the Editor:
The campus-wide divestment vote approach. Given the intensity of the pro-divestment campaign in the past week, I would not be at all surprised to see a few people voicing arguments against divestment in this issue.

While I respect and encourage others to respect — the opinions of these people, I disagree with their arguments.

1) Some will say that MIT has partially divested. On Friday, President Gray announced a $6.58 million divestment of stock in companies receiving a "Congo I" rating of compliance with the Sullivan Principles. But "partial divestment" usually means getting rid of one-third to one-half of your South Africa related stock. Four percent divestment is not partial divestment. The Boston Globe didn't even bother to mention it! It is a token gesture.

2) There are others who say that MIT's divestment costs too much. I ask these people to consider the human cost of not divesting for thousands of South Africans who etc. The cost claimed by Treasurer Glenn Streible, $1.67 million dollars a year, compares favorably with $1.5 million per year described as "not significantly large" in The Tech ("MIT must end its investments," Feb. 21). This cost is less than one-half of one percent of all the military research performed annually at MIT. In this case, I believe that MIT can afford to be humane.

3) Finally, there are those who say that divestment is an "emotional" reaction. I admit that any form of overt political action may sound "emotional" to students that have been recently immersed in a new political climate. But without this action, and regardless of the funds created by proponents on this campus, MIT's investments will have a political significance to the blacks in South Africa who, incidentally, support the divestment campaign with one to three margin. If being "emotional" means that you want an end to the oppression and racial factionalism in South Africa, what is wrong with that?

In the fight to end apartheid, microweapons is not enough. Vote for the real thing in tomorrow's election.

Richard Cowan

MIT administration supports IFC

To the Editor:
As a concerned member of the fraternity system I want to take this time to respond to the March 4 column ("A gap separates fists and dollars," The Tech) penned by Danit Pitt '88. I write not in total disagreement with the article, the first two-thirds of which I found both interesting and informative; however, the latter third presented an unfair view of the relationship which exists between the MIT administration and the fraternity, sorority, and independent living group (ILG) system.

I was somewhat startled with the opinion presented which gave an impression that the administration and the fraternity community were at odds. This is far from the case.

My position within the Institute-Fraternity Conference (IFC) dictates that I have close contact with the administration — particularly the Advisor to the IFC and the Office of Student Affairs (ODSA). My experience in working with the administration and the fraternity system have proven to me that not only does MIT need the fraternity system, but that it readily provides support and encouragement even when it is not absolutely necessary.

The most impressive example of this support can readily be found in the continued work by the administration in assisting and defunding the IFC with community relations problems. These individuals of particularly invaluable assistance have been Advisor Mark Eris and Dean Robert Sherwood. They regularly spend much time in defending the fraternity's best interests to the various community associates and the municipal officials of the various towns within which our houses are located.

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