Random honors Mandelas

To the Editor:

During the most recent house meeting, the students of Random Hall conferred honorary house membership on South African resistance leaders Nelson and Winnie Mandela. Although we, the Random residents, may not all agree that the system of apartheid must be eliminated, we wish to recognize the leadership of Mandela and others in South Africa and to support the movement which struggles to bring equality to all of the residents of South Africa.

Jen Driscoll '88

Student arrests were harsh

To the Editor:

I write to express my outrage that the Tech on its Sunday reporting of this grave matter. This comes from someone who has been relatively critical of the newspaper with regards to its reporting of the Coalition protests, and it comes from the heart. It was a gross job.

I am not writing in order to enter the debates about apartheid, or divestment or student activism that have been raging in this university about the means that they might support the removal of Alexandra Township from Kresge Oval and the arrest of eight students there last Saturday morning.

Allow me first to congratulate The Tech on its timely reporting of this grave matter. This comes from someone who has been relatively critical of the newspaper with regards to its reporting of the Coalition protests, and it comes from the heart. It was a gross job.

I write to express my outrage at the administration of this university about the means that they chose to clear Kresge Oval. After the general criticism was leveled at the students who participated in the unrelenting demonstration against the MIT Corporation, the administration mounted what amounts to an abusive and clandestine operation to rid themselves of "the student activist thorn." This type of behavior has a very simple description — hypocrisy. We have witnessed a planned campaign, executed with military precision, out of the public view, to silence student initiative.

I view this action on the part of MIT as a throwing down of the gauntlet. If abusive action is to be a part of vocabulary for the effect of political expression at this institution, so be it. Clearly MIT, through its actions, has endorsed that the political battle to be fought here is an activist one and has closed off its options to criticize students for activist initiative. I find this most regrettable, as I had hoped that a settlement negotiated in a civilized manner would be possible. That option may have been closed.

My heart has been captured by my desire to end apartheid. I know that these actions will not help end the oppression. We will help end the oppression. We will help end the oppression.

Andrew MacDonald '88

By the way, that armband around my head is a keepsake from Kresge Oval and the arrest of eight students there last Saturday morning.

Stephen Gens '86

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