Crank ODSA letter hit close to home

To the Editor:

I was pleased to see in The Tech that someone else was confused by the recent Office of the Dean for Student Affairs announcements ("ODSA-student relationships disturbing," Oct. 3). To me it is obvious why the ODSA has not denied these announcements, if they are indeed hacks: in substance they are true. A denial would have to be worded very finely to avoid negating ODSA's stated positions. The questionable ODSA announcements reiterate McBay's positions. Basically, anything that might offend some group's sensitivities is to be considered harassment. "Student Monitors" are to act as the enforcement arm of the ODSA. This "harassment" is most often used as an excuse for further ODSA control. One example of this mechanism at work is in the pornography issue, which gave the ODSA the opportunity to begin censorship.

If we think back to such events as the Group incident, the ODSA penalties for the anti-gay rally in Harvard Square, the pornography debate, and the Octathon shirt incident, it is clear that McBay bases her decisions on principles very close to those articulated by the announcements.

Even "student monitors" have some reality — recall the reporting of drug use that residence tutors are supposed to do. The threat of McBay's policies seems to be that "McBay knows best," whether it is an issue of art, civil rights, or MIT social activities. While these views might be appropriate for children, I do not think that they have any place here at MIT, with its adult population.

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