MIT libraries discriminate against students who smoke

To the Editor:

Signs on the doors of the Dewey Library say that after Nov. 1, the library system will become non-smoking. And I wonder — is that fair? About 70 percent of the US population does not smoke, and that percentage is much higher at MIT. But some of the population does smoke. Some people, for a variety of reasons, are addicted to cigarettes. They cannot seem to choose not to smoke.

Collectively, people agree that non-smokers should not be subjected to sidestream smoke. That's why there were smoking areas. They allowed people to smoke without bothering non-smokers. When the library is non-smoking, people will still smoke. They'll go outside, but it gets cold in the winter. So they will hide in the bathroom, subjecting everyone to their externalization of a room not to work in.

White students cannot know what blacks feel

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they generally have parents that come from professional backgrounds. This is not as prevalent among black students.

Twenty years ago it would have been difficult and in some cases dangerous for a black to try to sit in a classroom of higher eduction. Thus even today it is sometimes a radical move for blacks to consider a college education, while it is expected of many white students. It is very difficult to feel as though you belong at a place such as MIT when you are the first one in your family to go to college, and all around you are third or fourth generation students at college in general or MIT in particular.

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