Viciousness and obligation

Like an undercurrent, the air flows through the vents of the news office, and it makes me feel cold, the whole place makes me feel cold, and I'm thinking about the woman who was raped in Beverly Hills.

We are running a news story on rape in order to publicize the gravity of MIT's crime security problem. But, in doing so, we at the student newspaper stand in a position of twisting the knife, prying into a life that has already been so cruelly violated.

We do not take this lightly, as it doesn't seem right to simply convert tragedy into some "lesser evil." We still decide to run the story. I ask myself why we did so, knowing that we stand responsible for the consequences.

Does the newspaper's duty to inform the public outweigh the pain that the story might inflict on those who have been victimized? One can argue that the feeble flow of information benefits the public, that it's more conducive to leave the public uninformed about matters that are relevant and significant to its security and well-being.

Yet, this philosophy is worthless in the real world. It's irresponsible, vain journalism to pretend that I, as a male, and the all-male editorial board cannot understand. The police report and the newspaper story come simply as a pile of words on the page. It would be very easy for us to run the story as rererences from a distance.

How, then, do we faithfully print the news without becoming so desensitized to tragedy that we become numb, giving our information with no heed to the consequences, with no heed to the people we're writing about? Moreover, what difference does it make whether or not I am sensitive to the victim and the tragedy? The story still gets printed. Good intentions and bad intentions can lead to the same results.

The only thing I can offer is that we need to face the truth with open eyes, see both the good and the bad, and in doing so, (Please turn to page 6).

Interview Lee on neutral ground

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of this letter, sent to President Paul E. Gray '74.)

Dear Sir:

We are deeply saddened by the sudden disappearance of our esteemed colleague Jae-Hwan Lee, G, who is reportedly being held in North Korea. We know of Jae-Hwan as a typical hard-working MIT student, always searching for excellence in the academic arena, but with no political aspirations. We therefore believe that Jae-Hwan is detained in North Korea against his free will, and hence we are gravely concerned about his well-being. We note that you are equally concerned by his absence and that you are no less concerned about his well-being than his fellow MIT students.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that Jae-Hwan is not rendered usable as an instrument by virtue of his doctoral studies which he has completed or by virtue of his fellowship. More importantly, please note that Jae-Hwan is now appraised of his beloved family and fellow students whom he has left behind. His clear disinterest in an outside help, Jae-Hwan will never be with his family again, nor will he be with us to pursue his academic aspirations.

All of the Korean students at MIT feel very strongly that our dear colleague Jae-Hwan be allowed, as a minimum, to meet his family in a neutral setting where he can express his personal desires to them without intimidation and fear of reprisal. We also believe that such an arrangement can be made possible through an institute-level effort from MIT.

Accordingly, we respectfully ask you to endeavor to arrange such a meeting between Jae-Hwan and his family in neutral territories as soon as possible. We currently hope that you will respond to our plea as it is based purely on humanitarian grounds.

Erik White Kim, G

President

Korean Graduate Students Association

Protest was meant to lampon Gray

To the Editor:

I am writing as a Cambridge resident and participant in the June 1 demonstration in response to the letter in the July 14 issue of The Tech ("Protesters disturbed commencement"). The object of our protest was to dramatize the callous hypocrisy of Paul E. Gray's "integration." Typically, the MIT Corporation strives to fabricate a public image of responsibility, in fact, the institution's policy is virtually an unbroken record of active participation in injustice and exploitation at home and abroad.

In Cambridge, MIT workers are denied the previous they've earned, minority students and faculty are treated as second-class citizens, attempts are made to stifle campus dissent, and the people of this city are threatened by the gross over-development proposed for MIT's Simplex holdings.

Overseas, MIT investment money and MIT-developed systems help prop up repressive regimes against the just anger of their victimized populations. The-whistle blowing took place only during Gray's remarks, it was not intended to interfere with other aspects of Commencement and it did not. Our argument has never been with the students of MIT, and it is unfortunate if any undergraduate or graduate or their families believe themselves inconvenienced by our action. It is even more unfortunate that those who control MIT policy have pressurized the school's clubs to a policy of world-wide profiteering and exploitation.

Phil Barber

The Green St. Tenant's Alliance