MEM pulls a fast one in the Infinite Corridor

Column by Adam Braff

MIT has an ample supply of political puckishness, but few manage to rise above their own self-indulgent seriousness to a higher level of expres-

sion. Humor. That, in part, accounts for the buzz

that echoed along the Infinite Corridor three

weeks ago when Men Exploited by Masturbation

struck for the second time.

Those of us who were here last year will recall MEM's first maneuver. It took place last spring, when reproductive rights were in everybody's thoughts. Anybody with a visible mind could hear Roe v. Wade gasping its last. Local pro-life enthusi-

asts were gloating over their impending first-down, and the editors celebrated a visit to MIT

from Women Exploited by Abortion, a national or-

ganization with the unstated agenda of promoting
the pro-life position.

WEBAl's surreptitious intentions—and the

WEBa women's refusal to admit their agenda—

angered Dan Edidin and Stephen Fromm, graduate

students in mathematics. They designed a poster, a

parody of WEBAs, and taped it up in various loca-

tions around the Institute. Many copies were torn

down.

The gloves are off. The

Men Exploited have inflamed

the abortion-related thought centers of the MIT

student, and have done so by attacking his favorite

hobby.

To lend some permanence to their artwork, Edidin and Fromm decided they needed a locked
display case. Over the summer, they enlisted the
help of eight friends, and petitioned in the fall for
recognition as an official student activity.

The sole fruit of MEM's labor this year has been
a four-by-twelve-foot display between 7-102 and 7-

104. Against a baby blue background, nine sper-

matooza swam in place, held there by nine color-

coordinated post-pits. Amidst the paper was

displayed opious pro- and anti-choice literature,

with occasional sarcastic ejacutions from the Men

Exploited. More effective than the heavy-handed
editorializing, however, was a plaintive little clip-
ping from the New York Times. The article, "Mas-

souri Fetus Unlawfully Jailed," told of a particular

unfortunate fetus which was imprisoned along with

its mother; lawyers wanted the insane fetus freed.

This says something about lawyers, I think.

No. All of the comedy was engineered at MIT.

Matthew Greenberg and Moneys Pylons were pho-

copied and quoted, to give us a taste of professional

humanist-politicians. And Joseph Schindler, director

of the Pro-Life Action League, joked the mortal-

ity with this gem of a quote: "I think contraception

is dispresident—people using each other for

pleasure."

But enough about aesthetic judgments. How is one
to evaluate MEM's tongue-in-cheek argument that

a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we

think that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If

we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a

fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus? If we consider that a fetus is human even before it's a fetus?

The objects of MEM's satire have one acceptable
response: that is, as we all learned in second grade,
to make fun right back.

OK. So we understand the MEM philosophy.

Now for the business end. Ian Grouwinski G, one of MEM's fluets, told me the pragmatically
reason for his organization's existence.

"We are a political group," he said, "whose

method is to use humor to draw attention to our case."

To me, this is as noble a purpose as you'll find,

almost irrespective of the particular politics es-
poused. It should be noted, incidentally, that MEM

is in no way affiliated with the Association for

Women Students. These are, I believe, the only two

groups on campus which are active in defending re-

productive rights, and some students mistakenly be-

lieved that the first MEM posters were an ABS pro-

duction.

The gloves are off. The Men Exploited have in-

flamed the abortion-related thought centers of the

MIT student, and have done so by attacking his fa-

vorite hobby. The objects of MEM's satire have one

acceptable response: that is, as we all learned in sec-

ond grade, to make fun right back. To assault gen-

tle humor with logical arguments is an egregious

violation of every rule I learned as a child.

Now this is my kind of light. I can barely wait to

see whether MIT Pro-Life can do MEM one better.

Let the games begin.

Adam Braff, a junior in the School of Humanities

and Social Sciences, is a columnist for The Tech.

Editorial and letters policy

Editorials, marked and printed in a distinc-

tive format, are the official opinion of The

Tech. They are written by The Tech's editori-

al board.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written

by individuals and represent the opinion of

the author, not necessarily that of the news-

paper.

The Tech welcomes letters from its readers.

All letters are subject to editing and are pub-

lished solely at the editors' discretion. Au-

thors are allowed to send letters and include

their phone number, and MIT affiliation, if any,

for verification, and should type letters dou-

ble-spaced for ease of reading. Letters should

be kept under 500 words. The Tech publishes

letters anonymously only in rare circum-

stances, at the decision of the editorial board.

Letters to the Editor go to: The Tech, P.O. Box 29,

MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139; or to Room

W20-483 by interdepartmental mail.

HE SAID NOT TO WORRY. THAT HED ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY. NOW I'M REALLY WORRIED!

STATE GOVT.