Fraternity Sets Example of Tolerance All Should Follow

The thesis that face us as women in colleges is going to continue to be the concern long after we graduate. I think that as the up-and-coming generation of women, it is important that we be aware of all the previous generation worked to achieve and that we can achieve the next generation of height, educated women.

I began this column because I believe it is important that women, especially women at MIT, be able to learn about and discuss the issues that personally affect them now and in their future careers. The idea is not an entirely original one; last year, a couple of friends and I founded a "Women's Awareness Newsletter" for our sorority with similar issues, from which I learned a great deal about women's views of feminism, their misconceptions of "radical feminism" and their reactions to a variety of current issues.

When I decided on the title "Her Viewpoint," one woman told me that it might be misconstrued, as if to say that all other viewpoints are male. The more one examines this statement, the more it seems to ring true. Much of today's ideals for women are interpreted and imposed on our society by men. The more one examines these viewpoints, the more one realizes that all other viewpoints are men.

Many seemingly caring folk will recommend a condom if we intend to be sexually active. It is said that using a condom will protect us from the AIDS virus, and that a woman can get pregnant only if she has intercourse. While a woman can get pregnant only if she has intercourse, the AIDS virus is ready to enter the body at any time. There is no fertile or infertile time for the AIDS virus.

If so the condom is only 12 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, what is an effective way to prevent the spread of AIDS? If a condom fails or the user fails to use it just once, he or she could get AIDS. Married HIV-positive individuals who used condoms transmitted the disease to 17 percent of their spouses. When pressed, condom advocates will admit that there are ways you can be even safer in your pursuit of sexual pleasure. They will recommend not only condoms, but dental dams, rubber gloves, mutual masturbation, and everything short of Sarah Vaughan to keep you "safe."

Institutionalization, the media, and condom manufacturers have been trying to convince us that using a condom will ensure that we will not get AIDS. They argue that young people have neither the discipline nor intelligence to make rational decisions regarding their sexual behavior. However, each one of us can and should think for ourselves on this issue. After all, nor the death's notice, nor the MIT medical center, nor even our parents or friends will be able to do anything for us once we get AIDS. Advocates of condoms can point to the student center health office. They can put them out in Lobby 7 and Lobby 10. They can put them in our dorms. But they cannot make sure our condoms don't break.

Why is it so hard to tell people the truth about the dangers of condoms and AIDS? Are people afraid of telling others that their lifestyle is dangerous? We go around saying "say no to drugs," but it is simply too unacceptable to say no to sleeping around?

Anticatatation as this notion may be, it is the most innovative way to protect the fraternity's parties is either to abstain or get married. It is not only, as a college student, to get married. You do not have to be out of school. I've been married three years and have no complaints. I'm happy and content, and I'm married to the love of my life. It wasn't until last term, my third semester at MIT, be able to learn about and discuss the issues that personally affect women now and in their future careers. The idea is not an entirely original one; last year, a couple of friends and I founded a "Women's Awareness Newsletter" for our sorority with similar issues, from which I learned a great deal about women's views of feminism, their misconceptions of "radical feminism" and their reactions to a variety of current issues.

It's only until last term, my third semester at MIT, be able to learn about and discuss the issues that personally affect gender now and in their future careers. The idea is not an entirely original one; last year, a couple of friends and I founded a "Women's Awareness Newsletter" for our sorority with similar issues, from which I learned a great deal about women's views of feminism, their misconceptions of "radical feminism" and their reactions to a variety of current issues.

Using a Condom Won't Always Prevent AIDS, Pregnancy

Guest Column by Robert Trowbridge

I am writing this column to challenge common misconceptions about contraceptives and AIDS. It is very important to understand that contraceptives are the most important tool in protecting against sexually transmitted diseases. Gay and Lesbian Appreciation Days recently celebrated, I would like to raise an MIT fraternity for showing its open-mindedness by using the acronym AOWD (All Orifice Will Do) as a festival party poster. The acronym, which stands for "Any Orifice Will Do," is clearly an indication of the fraternity's openness to the gay community. It is an invitation to all people to enjoy the fraternity's parties.

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