Opinion

Women's Comedy Night Deemed Offensive

I am writing to express my concern about an evening of 'comedy' held last Saturday night, advertised as "Out For Laughs: A Wild Night of Women's Comedy" and put on by Squotum and the MIT Women's Studies Program. Based on the reports of close friends who saw it, I can say that I consider it to have been obscene, and entirely inappropriate for performance on the MIT campus, let alone during Campus Preview Weekend and with the encouragement of MIT faculty and the use of Institute resources. As such, I believe that it should not be performed, and that we should act with respect to the organizers of events like this one.

In any case, on Saturday night, a couple of friends of mine (to remain unnamed in this letter) were looking for a few laughs, so they went to a comedy show. They were not merely disappointed, but very offended. In the first act, Betty Soldick mocked their religion in a manner which seemed designed to maximize the offense taken by men, and heterosexist friends put it, it is pathetic to think that a joke of this kind could be funny. In the next routine, by Janice Perry, involved using transvestites to produce a laugh. While this was not in any way acceptable, but very offensive. In one scene, the male part of the couple was listened to, thus in clear violation of Institute policy on offensive behavior. However, this act was in clear violation of the rules for performing on campus. It was not a proper event, it was disrespectful, inconsiderate, deliberately insulting, and just plain stupid. As one of my friends put it, it is pathetic to think that a comic routine could be used in a way to draw a laugh.

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For many reasons, Hersch's suggestion that classroom lecturers be broadcast live is unrealistic. Just imagine the Tech attempting to cover some of the hundreds of lectures held each week. This would be even more of a "service" than broadcasting lectures, since many lecturers would not want to be subject to the potential unannounced peer review inherent in a live broadcast.

Hersch's Criticisms of MIT Cable Unfair

In his recent column "[TYT6: A Channel of Unapped Potential]" April 7, Matthew Hersch presented some ideas which he thought could improve the programming available on MIT Student Cable Television, TVM.

I'd first like to point out to Hersch that The Jean and Public Shows and Pet or Meat are not the only shows that have been regularly produced on TVM. "C and H" (Connecticut and Harvard) and "Stay Tuned" have been in production since September. Stay Tuned, with a definite format and a regular call-in audience, lets the MIT community voice their opinions of events, which will allow them to question what has been shown. Stay Tuned lets the MIT community voice their opinions of events, which will allow them to question what has been shown. Stay Tuned will broadcast events of wide interest to the MIT community, such as the 2:70 concert, the 8:350 concert, and occasional U.A. debates. MIT Student Cable has never formally broadcast films in course syllabi; however, as is posted on Channels 8, 9, 10, and 11, we always welcome independent filmmakers to produce or give a lecture.

Letters To The Editor

Due to an editing error, Robert Terwilliger's column ["Using a Condom Won't Always Prevent AIDS, Pregnancy," April 7,] reported that condoms are 12 percent effective in preventing pregnancy. The column should have indicated that condoms are 88 percent effective.

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Letters Policy

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Editor's Note

Beginning with this issue, The Tech has adopted changes to the design style introduced for January. The art section, "Artform," has undergone a major revision in the design of its front page: On the Waves, which runs every Friday, will also reflect this new design. In the opinion section, half-tone prints will run between columns of letters to the editor; the letters policy box and all similar boxes will have a line under the title; and one- and two-column biographies will occasionally run with columns.

Letters, Page 5

ERRATUM

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