**Letters to the Editor**

**Tech Disorts Harassment Policy**

In reviewing Thursday’s Tech I saw that there was serious irrelevance in your description of MIT’s Rush policy “Bad Rushing Rules Change for Dormitory Residents” on page 26. It is not necessarily “harmful to accuse of someone having committed crimes” — people who have knowledge that someone has committed a crime, for example, should report it to the appropriate authorities.

When the reporter spoke to me she asked for an example of what somebody might have been called “bad-mouthing.” An example was difficult to come by as many of the statements might have been called “bad-mouthing” before (e.g., that a living group is big and impersonal or a long way from campus or too conservative or too liberal) are perfectly reasonable. The example that jumped to mind was a delirious and malicious smear campaign accusing individuals of serious crimes with no basis in fact. Harassment is a serious MIT offense, and not just a causal way to make people say interesting things during Rush. The bottom line is that we don’t want any part of MIT to be a hostile or offensive environment for any member of our community. Especially given the national attention that harassment and free speech have received in recent years. I think that it’s important to clarify this to your readers.

Congratulations on the first success in daily coverage; I’ll be looking forward to reading the Tech during the rest of RO.

Elliot S. Levitt ’93

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Fresenm: Stay Alert and Rush Will Be Fine**

Get your head out of the sand. That’s the best advice I can give you. Now, this may be more difficult to achieve than it sounds because there are many people working very hard to keep your head at least partially in the sand. But there are things you can do to get a good idea of what’s going on around you and to make some good decisions about where to live.

This isn’t an event described to furnish horror stories. That’s been done — too many times. I just want to calm you (the rushees) down a bit and get you thinking.

One of the most important advice I have to remember is that everyone you will talk to in the next few days is a salesperson. From the fraternity members who will try to win you to their house after the rush begins, to the dormitory folks who want you to place their house near the top of their list, to the sorority members who will invite you to their house in a few days, I am right now very willing to tell you some things: an attitude, a way of looking at rush that might not be suggested in your rush book.

I say, pretend you’re shopping for a bargain — someplace, something, or someone. Look at the options the same way you would any other product. People are trying to sell you a place to live and/or membership in a social organization. Some of them are trying to sell you a house. Some of them are trying to sell you a car.

I’ll go through all the rush books that I have on hand and throw in a few of my own observations.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Erratum**

Due to a reporting error, an article in yesterday’s issue (“Freshmen Arrive on Campus”) misstated the policy concerning taking today’s mathematics placement examination. According to Margaret S. Enders, assistant dean for curriculum support, all freshmen are expected to take the test, including those who plan to place out of Calculus I or II (18.01 or 18.02).

Contrary to yesterday’s story, a student’s results on the test will not affect which classes he or she may take. Freshmen who do poorly will be asked to take the test a second time on Registration Day. The UAAO will encourage students who think Neil Diamond is a musical animal, don’t want a lot of time at the house with “Put a Little Spark in the Front door to go green...” to read the evidence you see on the campus.

Letters to the Editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 89, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-243. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to lett@mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and comments on academic concerns are subject to review by Academic Affairs.

Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be published anonymously without the express written approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.