**Protestors Should Let The Idiots Speak for Themselves**

By Bill Jackson '93

I'm often asked how I find the time to write columns for The Tech. The answer, aside from my utter lack of a social life, is that often the columns write themselves.

A case in point: last Friday's rally on the Student Center steps. I went to the rally not expecting much, but for my trouble I got a solid sampling of campus idiots and reactionary flames.

The Cliff's Notes version of the anti-harassment rally, for those of you who wisely write columns for the dictionary flamers.

**PROTESTGROUPIE**

chose to hold that particular sign, Eric? "It didn't say 'I wanted it.' Why did you choose to hold that particular sign, Eric?" I think it's important to know if your sign really expresses how you feel, David. Does it?

"As much as the signs in Bitran's class expressed what they were protesting.

So you can see that these guys were just a bunch of... well, I can't print what I think they are, but I'll give you a hint; it rhymes with "even holes."

And as you can also see, it doesn't take a lot of effort to show that they were idiots. Unfortunately, those in the crowd who were in support of the rally didn't realize how easy it was. Emily Winston, a member of the Women's Action Corps (a local women's rights group), insisted on holding a "No More Harassment" sign in front of the faces of the eight men as they were interviewed by newspaper and television reporters. She said that if they were going to get any publicity, she wanted her sign to be in the shot as well.

Good in principle, but misguided. The best thing that could come from the rally is that people see these idiots plainly and clearly. Winston had more success in shaming them up when she asked one "Do you go around kissing your professor?" "If I have that type of relationship with them, maybe." he quickly responded. Well, when your professors find out what sensitive guys you are, I'm sure they'll be falling all over themselves to have "that type of relationship" with you. Really.

Another man in a black wrinkled tee said the "She wanted it" sign out of Eric Fitch's hands. A heated exchange ensued, but Dean Art Smith, doing his best Henry Kissinger impersonation, stepped between them and calmed things down. The man in the tee shirt, who first gave me his name but then declined to let me print it, had been a classmate of Erulkar at Sloan and called the sign "unattractive and vulgar."

But don't you understand? Besides the free-speech arguments, the best advertising the anti-harassment people can have is to allow publicity of signs like Fitch's.

When I went to this rally, I knew that sexual harassment was a problem, but I now really admit I had no concept of the magnitude of the problem. What made me understand was not some speech or flare but the very presence of these men and their signs.

Don't hide them or their sentiments; as Professor David Halperin told me, they simply "dramatize the need for a clear, equitable harassment policy at MIT."

Tech Opinion Editor Bill Jackson '93 wants to be the guy who starts the chant next time.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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We do not believe that making 36-100 or Kroegel easier to find would make MIT a more dangerous place, on the contrary, visitors might be safer if they didn't get lost and go stumbling through desolate corners and corridors. At the very least there should be signs in major corridors pointing out that all even numbered buildings are straight ahead, building 11 is to the left, and building 3 to the right, etc. It would also be useful to provide more prominent signs to direct newcomers to the Information Office in Lobby 7.

It's a shame that the Institute provides so few directions. After all, our families pay a lot of money to send us here; wouldn't it be nice to help them find their way around when they visit? We hope to get other student groups involved in this project, and are willing to provide part of the necessary funds. If you have any questions, opinions, or suggestions, please contact us at baker_found@leter-.ns.mit.edu.

Everett Moore Baker Memorial Foundation

Wynn H. Kue '93
Chairman

NOT YOU, MRS. CLINTON.

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Writing to us?

Send Letters to: letters@the-tech.mit.edu or W20-483. Remember to include your evening phone number and full name.