**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Safe Ride Needs Improvement**

The Tech received a copy of the following letter addressed to Senior Vice President William B. Davies '56.

Crimes committed on campus in the past months have prompted much discussion about safety at MIT. The Graduate Student Council feels that improving the situation requires a combination of individual, group, and administrative efforts, and believes the Safe Ride van service to be one area needing improvement.

Of paramount importance will be the addition of more vans, but other changes would be helpful as well. It is extremely important, for example, that people know when the van will stop at a particular location. Waiting outside for the van can be no more dangerous than simply walking to one’s destination; if the waiting time required is as much as 30 minutes, many people will walk.

A stop at the Kendall Square MBTA station and the Central Square T station should be considered. This would assure safe public transportation for most of the MIT community. An attempt should be made to mark the stops with signs, and wherever possible, there should be emergency phones and lights at the stops. Safe Ride vans could stop for 15-30 seconds at each stop for people who are waiting inside buildings. The vans should not simply drive through a stop if nobody is present outside.

For the safety of the drivers, all passengers should be required to show a college ID before entering the van. Fitting the vans with power locks would also be beneficial, giving the driver control over who enters the van. A procedure should also be available through which riders can file complaints about the drivers. The Graduate Student Council could also be responsible for publicizing this procedure.

The GSC feels very strongly that security at MIT is as important as ever, and that students and visitors feel comfortable here, while the MIT community is not. We recognize that individuals must take action to protect themselves, and that the MBTA must act as well. A Safe Ride is only one of the services available, but it can be used more efficiently than it is presently. The GSC hopes that these suggestions can help improve Safe Ride, and we would appreciate a timetable for implementation of changes.

Andru Mehta G

on behalf of the Graduate Student Council

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**OPINION POLICY**

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