Pagan Group Faces Bigotry, Intolerance

While some members of the MIT community debate the existence of absolute moral values, others struggle with the bigotry and intolerance that are the consequences of such an absolutism. One group, the Pagan Society, has been at the center of this debate.

The Pagan Society at MIT, founded in 1970, is a group that celebrates non-Christian religious traditions, including Wicca, Druidry, and Nature-based spirituality. The group has faced numerous challenges, including discrimination and harassment from other students and faculty.

In 1993, the MIT administration announced plans to close the Pagan Society's study room in the basement of MacGregor House, claiming that it was too far from the main student dining facilities. The move was met with outrage from members of the Pagan Society, who argued that the decision was not only discriminatory but also violated MIT's policy against discrimination.

The case was brought to national attention, and ultimately, the administration reversed its decision, allowing the Pagan Society to continue operating in its current location.

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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-0029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-248. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be emailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the date of publication. Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letters or cartoon copy will be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

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Technical Editor

Michael T. Decerbo '95

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