Letters To The Editor

Tewhey Coverage Hurts Family, Personal Life

Last July, my husband, James R. Tewhey, the associate dean for student affairs, received a threat that he “would end up without a job, family, friends, and his daughter.” In a phone conversation on July 31, 1992, I was told that Jim should end up without his job, family, friends, and his daughter.

Nine months later, my husband is without a job and ostracized within his community. He does, however, still have all the respect, love, and support of his family. As Jim and I work with-in the system to “clear his name,” we are certain about the leaking public of details and allegations about his personal life and the efforts that this has on his family, particularly his daughter.

Since July of 1992, there have been continuous anti-gay, anti-multi-ethnic, anti-Semitic, anti-disability or otherwise discriminatory…

I have been contacted by many who asked for friendship and accurate information about Jim and our family.

My fear is that there might be only one motive for its dissemination — to humiliate a man, alienate his family, and hurt his children.

Jim and I have maintained these standards throughout all of this: not to indulge in character assassination of any of his professional colleagues and not to discuss our private life in public in an effort to dispute any false allegations that have been made about him. It is difficult for us, however, to see our daughter united by false and sensationalized images of her father and not react. We are committed, however, to not get drawn into a debate on the truth of these allegations, because others or others that should remain private.

I hope that the reputation that Jim has earned at MIT over the past six years will serve as a defense of his character.

Karen Tewhey

Ad Hoc Proposal Is Dangerously Broad

A reader’s column on “Government Warrant Proposal Would Only Worsen Situation,” Apr. 16, though harsh, rightly points out severe flaws in the Ad Hoc committee’s proposed policy. When I first read the policy, I was shocked and appalled. I am one of the many extreme distrusted users, and how the hearing process is a civil libertarian’s night-mare.

Besides banning “sexist” remarks and “behavior,” it also criminalizes all which are anti-gay, racist, anti-Semitic, anti-disabled or otherwise discriminatory.

Can a fearful person who talks and socializes have any sort of state as when he or she will overcome these rules? The consequences of doing so are certainly, not convicts will be be subject to the unspecified “mandatory minimum penalty.”

Such amorphous offenses can readily serve as an intellectual blackbox. Just the threat of prosecution can have a chilling effect. This expansiveness creates a favorable environment for selective enforcement and use of charges as weapons of intimidation. A commun-ity should be a place where people are encouraged to explore ideas, rather than needing to worry whether an impolitic opinion or rude quip will land them in disciplinary proceedings.

Mistakes not being from the proposal are certainly not

Karen Tewhey

Opinion Policy

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Disputes, marked as such printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed writer or editor choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 79, MIT, Backen Br, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-443. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed 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 author’s signature, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will be printed anonymously without the express wish of the author. The Tech reserves the right to edit, condense, or delete letters, shorter letters will be given priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned.

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