**An Open Letter To Skaters: Avoid Being The Next Victim**

I had a terrible experience when I had my figure skates sharpened in the Bicycle Workshop on 259 Mass Ave. near MIT. My newly bought figure skates were totally damaged with nearly all of the sharpens in the edge cut off by the worker who did the job. Worst of all, the store manager denied the wrongdoing of her employee, lashed out at me by yelling to call up the police (she had done it, and I guess she dared not to), and even rudely asked me to leave the store when I requested for compensation.

This happened two days before Christmas and things have not been settled today. I was a new skater and did not realize that sharpening skill is so important, and that an unskilled job could be so harmful to the skates. Usually, the skates cost quite a lot of money, so I hope this experience will not be repeated by another person, especially our MIT students. Therefore, I think it is necessary for me to write this open letter. The simple lesson I have learned and would like to share with all the skaters is:

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**Honest, Stable Citizens**

I am writing to respond to Michael Chang's criticisms of the recently passed Brady Bill. I strongly agree that there need to be programs for gun education. It would even be in the NRA's best interests to support such programs. However, background checks should be common sense. They certainly justify spending the money to ensure they are properly carried out. Every law-abiding citizen deserves the peace of mind of knowing that guns will not be sold to criminals or mentally unstable individuals. I am intimately familiar with a case in which a severely unstable mental patient purchased a gun and murdered her mother the same day. Not only was this a crime of passion, but the purchase of the gun would have been denied under the Brady Bill as her mental condition was well documented. Further, the Brady Bill does not attempt to prevent a very small percentage of them. Honest, stable individuals can spend the five days enrolled in a gun-education seminar. Also, I am skeptical of the importance of "extreme circumstances." A family or individual should decide to own a gun or not to own a gun, period. Timing should be irrelevant. This is a component of being a responsible gun-owner.

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**Advice**

**Earthquake**

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**To Reach Us**

Electronic mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. Mail to specific departments may be sent to the following addresses on the Internet: ads@the-tech.mit.edu, news@the-tech.mit.edu, photos@the-tech.mit.edu, editorials@the-tech.mit.edu, circulation@tech-mit.edu. For other matters, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person.