Administrators’ Efforts To Increase Minority Faculty Appraisalable

It never ceases to amaze me how passionately some of my fellow MIT students can articulate their political opinions when it comes to matters of underrepresented minority recruitment. I do find it particularly amusing, however, that just pages before Philip G. Green span describes the efforts of certain MIT administrators to increase the pool of minority PhD applicants (“Recruitment of Minority Students Gives a Bixed View Reality,” Feb. 15), Corets Scott King is quoted as implying the MIT community to “take a pro-active approach against racism” (“King Calls for New Action on Racism,” Feb. 15). Just how Green span and so many other students feel their great powers of reason, no doubt validated by their MIT degree status, grants them license to pass a value judgment on the intentions and efforts of others is truly amazed. I am especially confused when these judgments are directed at issues concerning the state of underrepresented minority affairs, issues from which the overwhelming majority of the MIT population is far removed.

Clearly, there is no need to reiterate Green span’s arguments as the ignorance about them is self-evident. Rather, I wish to address a matter that is largely misunderstood, and I believe, a matter that is at the heart of Green span’s frustrations. Contrary to popular belief among most MIT students, ethnic, and racial equality is still an unfulfilled goal for our country, and, on this campus too.

Just because people are protected by civil rights, just because there are policies structuring business and educational hiring practices, by no means have underrepresented minorities achieved the economic, political, and educational equality necessary for them to live the American dream. In order to attain this equality, ethnic and racial minorities must be empowered.

And make no mistake about it — the road to empowerment is not necessarily a six-figure salary. I challenge Green span to poll any group of students who have lived through ethnic or racial oppression on whether they would rather take a high-paying job as a peon and some others, and especially faculty, believe, a matter that is at the heart of Green span’s frustrations. Contrary to popular belief among most MIT students, ethnic, and racial equality is still a goal for our country, and, on this campus too.

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