Letters To The Editor

McDonough Misinterprets Williams Talk

As a queer member of the MIT community, I was intrigued by the Feb. 1 article. McDonough, though not a member of the MIT community, felt that he was justifying in attacking the presentation when Karen Williams talked at MIT during Residence and Orientation Week ("Mandatory Williams Talk Constitutes Political Tyranny," Sept. 16). I also assume that, unlike me, Mr. McDonough did not attend the event and is lambasting the MIT administration, the sponsors of the event, and those who supported Karen as a presenter, without actually knowing what he attacked. Otherwise, he might have done better to use his presentation, since Karen is a very funny comic and he might have learned something, in much the same way as the students he hopes to educate.

It has been very interesting, over my last three years at MIT to watch the bizarre, almost manic attempt on the part of right-wing radicals to use the bogus ply of "political correctness" as a last ditch effort to stem the simple changes of understanding that must happen in our society in general, and in our universities in particular. It almost appears for a while that they had a successful whipping boy, but at this point the silliness of it is evidenced by attitudes like McDonough's. It's now become clear that conservatives like McDonough simply do not understand what's being attempted by people like this; there is not a radical political goal, just the "balanced" and understanding which McDonough mistakenly believes is already there.

MIT has attempted, at least through policy and also through administrative behavior at times, to form a community out of all its members. As American Provost for the Arts, Ellen T. Harris fundamentally asserted that introducing Williams, "Difference is good; diversity is important." McDonough was familiar with the stresses and difficulties which members of our community which accepts the existence and worthiness of all its members. Perhaps if McDonough were familiar with the stresses and difficulties which members of our community face, he would understand better.

Dan G. Brown, '95

Some Posting Excessive

As I entered Building 16 on the way to class, I started to scan a row of 18 posters across the bottom of a public bulletin board. Ironically, they all advertised a certain student activity's upcoming "community service" event. At the top of the board flanked the tired remains of a notice which, as recently as last year, read "One poster per group per board."

I continued toward the Infinite Corridor, noting another public board with approximately 10 posters advertised per board. This too was a board that used to have a notice intended to prevent overposting. On the boards along the Infinite Corridor itself, the group averaged at least 10 posters per public board. One board had 20.

While I realize that the "one poster per group per board" rule has in the past been honored as often in the breach as in the observance, I also seem to recall that most groups that break the rules have the community to prevent them to two or three posters per board. Whether the rule is still in effect or not, in the interests of waste and the preservation of consumable resources, I suggest that the really publicly-rebel student groups make an effort to restrain themselves. Try an ad in the Tech or an LSC slide. The "TT" is ugly enough without nasty blue wallpaper.

Bridget Spitznagel, '96

Jury Duty Can Inconvenience Out-of-State Students

A feature article by Romy A. Arensman entitled "MIT Students Not Inconvenienced by Massachusetts Jury Duty System," Sept. 13, overlooked the issue of the difficulties involved when students must serve jury duty. I also referred to a letter in the editor which appeared in The Boston Globe this summer, written by the parent of an MIT student who had been called to serve.

While I agree that it is civic duty to serve when called upon, I must note that Arensman missed the point of the Globe article. The mother of this student complained that her daughter had been called up during the summer holidays, and by the time the letter was finally forwarded to her in Ohio, the deadline for reply was long past. The point of the article was that it is not always a simple matter for out-of-state residents to fulfill their duties to the country's judicial system through the Commonwealth, which is a valid argument that deserves some consideration.

Carrie B. Miller '95

ERRATUM

A sports article that ran in last Fri-
day's issue ["Women's Crew Retains NE8-Regatta Title," Sept. 16] had already run in late April ["Women's Crew Holds Strong at New 8 Regatta," April 26].

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