Middle East Coverage—Slightts Israel Issues

We realize that The Tech is not exactly The New York Times when it comes to complete coverage of world news and affairs. Nonetheless, The Tech's oldest and newest newspaper is the primary source of world news for a scant percent of MIT students. With this in mind, we feel that The Tech demonstrated a blatan bias against the state of Israel as its coverage of the events taking place in the Middle East in the past two weeks. On Oct. 11, an Israeli soldier, kidnapped from the heartland of Israel by the Hamas. The Hamas immediately claimed responsability for the kidnapping and demanded the release of 200 Hamas prisoners by 9:00 p.m. that day. Unfortunately, the Hamas's threat was to make those prisoners who would be the prompt, cold-blooded execution of the 20 Hamas prisoners. A Swiss hostage hunter, (who incidentally was also an American citizen). As a result, the Israeli government decided to offer to evacuate the hostage hunter, with the power to stop the Hamas's threat to be the prompt execution of the 20 Hamas prisoners. This rescue mission unfortunately failed. The Hamas quickly killed the captive soldier, and one other soldier was also killed and died in the exchange of fire. On the eve of the awarding of the 2006 Nobel Prize to Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat. Consequently, the Hamas kidnapping is generally seen as a direct effect on their part to damage the good process between the state of Israel and the Palestinians, represented by Arafat and the Fatah. While both the kidnap- pings and the rescue efforts were covered in the same manner in the United States, our local "objective" newspaper decided to ignore any articles regarding the event even remotely related to the incident. While we realize that it is crucial for the MIT community to be informed about the events, we cannot question the OS's 18 issue that "Defense Firms Bill US Government $400 Million For Export Controls," it would have been a nice gesture to mention at least a paragraph about one of the most newsworthy events in the Middle East in the past year.

Perhaps there was a simple oversight on the part of The Tech and that they missed the incident. However, the weekend before, another severe terrorist attack took place on Ben Yehuda Street, the Harvard Square of Jerusalem. A gunman stood in the middle of this busy pedestrian area and opened fire. The crowd, which included only two innocent people were murdered, but many were injured. We find it interesting that this little fact was also slipped by The Tech's oh-so-watery eye.

Up to that point we were not overwhelmingly impressed by The Tech's performance in covering world news. However, the final injustice was done in the Friday, Oct. 21 issue. Two days earlier, the Hamas used one of their suicide bombers, the so-called ".observe" bus in Tel-Aviv's Dizengoff Street during the peak of the rush hour. This street holds the highest concentration of Israelis of any street in the entire nation and can be compared to New York's Times Square. The bomb went off with such tremendous force that the top of the bus literally flew off, and the windows of the bus two lanes overattered, injuring many people in a completely unrelated vehicle. In total, 49 people were killed and 48 more were seriously injured. Tragically, only 14 of those mourned remained as bodies. The rest of the victims werecompared to the entire street, the in the area, searching for additional victims.

Examining The Tech on Friday, we expected to find there to be some mention of this tragedy, the most severe terrorist attack on our state of Israel. To put the situation in perspective, the infamous World Trade Center bombing resulted in a total of four deaths, the Hamas attack resulted in over 100 people dead and the subsequent rescue effort, has been compared to the entire nation and can be compared to New York's Times Square. The bomb went off with such tremendous force that the top of the bus literally flew off, and the windows of the bus two lanes overattered, injuring many people in a completely unrelated vehicle. In total, 49 people were killed and 48 more were seriously injured. Tragically, only 14 of those mourned remained as bodies. The rest of the victims werecompared to the entire street, the in the area, searching for additional victims.

The debate over term limits for political offices has been raging nationally and regionally in recent years in the Middle East in the past year. The debate, which is quite frankly offensive that without having any real facts behind it, the debate itself is outrageous. In addition, the portrayal of the state of Israel as being portrayed as a "state of war" against the state of Israel, we feel that this portrayal is quite offensive, especially given the fact that many in our community. On the issue of the recent terrorist events in Israel, we feel that The Tech did not do its due diligence in covering these events and thus failed to present a realistic picture of what is happening in the Middle East.

The debate over term limits for political offices has been raging nationally and regionally in recent years. The debate, which is quite frankly offensive that without having any real facts behind it, the debate itself is outrageous. In addition, the portrayal of the state of Israel as being portrayed as a "state of war" against the state of Israel, we feel that this portrayal is quite offensive, especially given the fact that many in our community. On the issue of the recent terrorist events in Israel, we feel that The Tech did not do its due diligence in covering these events and thus failed to present a realistic picture of what is happening in the Middle East.

The debate over term limits for political offices has been raging nationally and regionally in recent years. The debate, which is quite frankly offensive that without having any real facts behind it, the debate itself is outrageous. In addition, the portrayal of the state of Israel as being portrayed as a "state of war" against the state of Israel, we feel that this portrayal is quite offensive, especially given the fact that many in our community. On the issue of the recent terrorist events in Israel, we feel that The Tech did not do its due diligence in covering these events and thus failed to present a realistic picture of what is happening in the Middle East.