

## Diversity at MIT (Feb. 22)

I noted in the class discussion that I thought it was great that Brandon Briscoe wrote the article. Not a single person would have talked about an article praising diversity. We needed a charged opinion that would really spark discussion, and Briscoe did that and more.

After reading the article, I started to think: "Why is diversity important? Why do we actually need it? What would our school be like without diversity?" I came to the conclusion that the diversity around me at MIT has taught me two things. First, I learned how to work with all types of people: African-American, Caucasian, and Asian. With my experience at MIT, I'm confident that I can go forth into society and succeed in any environment, and, in many ways, this is the most important skill I've gained at MIT. Second, diversity has given me a more global perspective. While you can never actually "be" in someone else's shoes, learning more about how people from other parts of the country or world think is so critical.

My only issue with MIT's environment is that we have too many subgroups. I love the fraternity system as much as anyone else, but after 4 years at MIT, I've realized how many people I didn't meet because I was in such a closed environment. There are friends that I have met this semester from other fraternities, other living groups, and dorms that I wish I had been friends with all 4 years here. MIT has done a great job promoting diversity at MIT, but now the institution needs to focus on correctly utilizing the diversity it created. Without centralized dining, the school needs an alternate method of getting all the students together.

Maybe it's not Briscoe's fault. I, just like him, decided to join a fraternity, and - without really knowing - decided to enter a very closed society at MIT, one that doesn't reap the rewards of MIT's diversity. In class, many of the students were so focused on Brandon Briscoe and how "wrong" his opinions were. Regardless of how "wrong" he is, Brandon is entitled to his own opinion. We need to focus on how to fix the issue and getting students like Brandon to appreciate and learn from the school's diversity, one of MIT's greatest assets.

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Spring 20

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