

Last week's conversation on Affirmative action and women supposedly reducing MIT's aim of Academic Excellence according to Brandon Briscoe was an engaging one. Personally, I think this is one person's opinion, obviously not based on facts, but based on his personal feelings. My peers in class and I, especially those of color, were offended by the article and some of the assertions it made. We were even more appalled by some of the obviously racist and partially opinionated comments which the editors of the Tech did not deem inappropriate. I agree with being concerned about the fact that Brandon was given a platform at MIT to share his opinion, but I disagree with a huge uproar to his article as it gives him more credit and sense of importance than he deserves.

I agreed with one of my peer's comments that such articles and people as the opinion article and Brandon should give us more motivation to achieve even more. I raised this point in class to stating that this is "one person's" opinion, and it should not deter us from our purpose here at MIT. MIT women have a higher GPA on average than men, so should Brandon insinuate that MIT women reduce the academic level of MIT is just not backed by proof and definitely not reasonable. In this world and now, we will always be surrounded by people who have strong erroneous opinions, and it is up to us to know which ones merit our attention. It is alright to be passionate about a certain topic, but I feel that we are falling into the temptation of the bad consequences of over-sensitivity ("over" – just showing the negative connotation) especially on topics of such great emotional attachment.

About the actual argument or discussion in class, I think it was good that we started the class with the various definitions we were going to use like the definition of better applicant on paper, as being someone with better scores on the Exams and higher GPA's. It is true that these people who are better paper applicants feel a sense of entitlement to great schools like MIT. I particularly feel I am lucky to be here and had I applied a year later, might not have been taken; this just makes me thank God for his intervention given that there are so many things that the admission office takes into consideration. To me, the fact that some of those people who are better on paper applicants are mad at MIT and all the students at MIT with lower scores justifies MIT's choice with regard to them.

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