Reitman must have been misquoted

To the Editor:

The remarks attributed to Associate Dean of Students Bruce Reitman concerning the QUEER posters must have been misquoted or taken out of context. No member of the Administration would be so careless with language. To call these posters “one of the worst things [he has] seen on campus,” for instance, would appear to classify rather tame sexual imagery in the same category as rapes, suicides, verbal and physical assaults on students, and daily incidents of insensitivity to race, gender, or sexual orientation. To characterize these posters as “pornography,” moreover, would not only ignore Supreme Court definitions of the term, but would suggest that similarly graphic imagery in perfume ads, magazine covers, or movies in Harvard Square and Barnum 008 are not “pornographic” or offensive because they show heterosexual couplings. To focus so much administrative energy, finally, on the complaints of an undisclosed number of students, would ignore the daily psychological impact of pervasive heterosexual imagery on the at least 10 percent of our students who are gay, lesbian or bisexual. But misquotes aside, I congratulate QUEER for forcing us to confront some of the inconsistencies of a homophobic society.

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