MIT student hacks "Morton Downey Jr. Show"

By Andrew L. Fish and Annabelle Boyd

As MIT undergraduates apparently pulled off a nationwide hoax on the syndicated Morton Downey Jr. television show, Christopher F. Coon '90 said he masqueraded as a representative of a controversial group which protects relationships, including sexual ones, between men and boys.

Coon appeared on the program claiming to be a member of the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA). The show, which aired in Boston last Friday, featured Coon (who was introduced only by his first name) along with clinical psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers.

Coon defended NAMBLA, which he later called "the worst possible organization around," during the hour-long show, facing an often hostile audience, some of whom threatened him with bodily harm.

The stunt was intended to attack "the host, the show, and the format," Coon said in an interview with The Tech. He called the show "obnoxious and disgusting.

Bill Boggs, executive producer of the program, said, "We have received threats from a lot of people. I don't know what he says. Otherwise he's a boldfaced liar."

Boggs said Coon maintained his story in conversations yesterday, after both were contacted by The Tech. Boggs said he warned Coon that he would be in "hot water" if he was lying.

"He told me that if he felt seriously threatened by a lawsuit, he would change his story and claim to be a member of NAMBLA. But Coon said, 'You can't prove I'm not a member of NAMBLA because I'm not.'

"I've never heard of NAMBLA. I don't know who they are. I don't know if anyone else heard of them."

But Boggs said Coon certainly could not have verified whether or not Coon was a member of NAMBLA by contacting the organization, according to Christo-

In order to exploit the 'trash TV' format and to challenge his detractors, Coon met with a producer of the show. "I may say, 'I'm on the show,'" Tuttle said.

A little later in November, child-molesting activities.

"I heard he was a member, I tried called Coon and invited him 'on the show," Tuttle added.

But Tuttle said it was Coon's idea to appear on a talk show, and he was involved only after Coon met with a producer of the Downey show. "Where plans were made and concerned I never involved as much as he may tuttle," Tuttle said.

Bell refused to comment.

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Another producer contacted Coon in early January to say that there would be no "hotline" and was interested in having Coon go on the air. But Downey denied Coon to bring several members of NAMBLA with him to appear in the studio audience. Both Tuttle and Bell refused to go on the show, Coon said, so he had to produce the show without them. Coon then contacted other NAMBLA members to go on the air.

Coon said that in December he "hesitantly" told Coon that he would be willing to appear on the show as a NAMBLA representative, even though he was not a member of the organization. But Tuttle added: "I had no proof, in fact, that he was lying.

But Tuttle said that Coon would have to go on the show as a member of NAMBLA. Coon, who despises what he called "trash TV" talk shows after attending several different television talk shows with his name on them, was surprised to see that the organization would be discussed on the program.

The NAMBLA program was aired in New York last night, and earlier in the day Boggs said it would be shown nationwide as well. Boston and a few other cities air the show one business day behind the rest of the nation, he said.

Tuttle later decided he did not "want to face the hostility of the audience and refused to appear.

Coon makes appearance

On Feb. 3, Downey's staff told Cooper, who invited him on the show. Coon agreed to appear. In compensation, the show sent Coon a round-trip airline ticket and drove him from the airport to the studio in a limousine. According to Coon, he arrived at the New York studio at around 5 pm on Feb. 7. One of Downey's staff then placed Coon alone in a room to wait until taping time of 7 pm. Though he requested to mingle with the other guests on the show, Coon kept by himself in the room until the interview, and was visited twice during the show, the first time by a producer who briefed Coon on his appearance. The second time, the producer gave Coon the show's script.

"Using a pseudonym," Coon signed the Downey show's confessional forms which stated that he was telling the truth about his identity and organizational position. Coon said. Coon did use his real first name on the program, however. White Stone did not have the form available, he said that Coon could use his real name when dealing with the show.

"The only precaution the Dow- ney program took was to keep me on the set was walking me through a metal detector," Coon said.

When Coon went on the show, he said, "I felt like he was playing a character. It was not nervous, but was worried that I would not be nervous, and act the part. Coon, who-despite what NAMBLA stands for ("NAMBLA is the worst possible organization around"), felt that the experience was "tremendously funny and ironic" though the questions "caught him off-guard, a bit," he added.

The show was "tremendously funny and ironic" though the questions "caught him off-guard, a bit," he added.
Pro-Life faces repeated harassment

To the Editor:

"Harassment of any kind is not acceptable at MIT." The above statement is in conflict with the policies and principles of the MIT Bulletin and of the MIT community as a whole. "Harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that has the intent of interfering with any individual's or group's education or work experience at MIT." "Harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, national origin, or sexual orientation includes harassment of an individual or a group by a person that person's identification with a particular group."

These passages come page 74 of the MIT Bulletin under "Institutional Statement." Two recent infractions involving direct attack on the Pro-Life bring about a necessity to remind people of this policy.

The first incident took place on Feb. 9 when a band of loud, heckling "pro-choice" students and women launched a staged, verbal terrorist attack on MIT Pro-Life's booth in Lobby 10. The latter had the booth legally reserved and registered with Campus Activities for its Kone Sale.

If the express opinions by our group offended anyone, the opinions in disagreeing with us do not indicate that our group’s booth like virtues and repelling others is the only approach we take. One member of the group threatened with a grin to have the National Organization for Women join them the following day, in which case the latter would be guilty of harassment and trespassing.

The second blatant insult to MIT Pro-Life came in the form of a slide shown before a Lecture Series Committee movie on Sun.

In addition to the above quotes, "Birth Control is the lesser of two evils! -- Pro-Life on the basis of research every sperm is sacred! -- Monty Python's Flying Circus can only be interpreted as a direct, sarcastic attack on the group or an individual who submitted the demeaning slides, it did, in fact, have a grossly irresponsible in showing it.

It seems that LSC will be a factor of several people. There is a dogma someone wants to launch, provided they have the $20 to spend on Pro-Life's political rides, and the use of these slides as a catapult for mud-slinging that these messages/advertisements is distasteful and irresponsible.

I realize that the immanent pro-life favorable Supreme Court decision has terfied abortionists, and I further realize that it is this fear which elicits such inane behavior. Stating the obvious, abortionists, that if you reserve your own Lobby 10 booth, MIT Pro-Life will beter than "terminators" in for a Rambo
type showdown. I suggest that if you want to create a scene, please join an actors guild, because.doing this without a permit will not be tolerated.

Christ R. Papineau '90
Assistant Vice President
MIT Pro-Life

Abortion issue should not be decided in US Supreme Court

To the Editor:

"Women have rights over their own bodies." This includes the rights to control their own reproductive acts and the right to consent to the use of these slides is a catapult for mud-slinging that these messages/advertisements is distasteful and irresponsible.

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We must not kill if human life is in doubt

To the Editor:

Richard Lawson, in his letter defending the "pro-choice" position at a recent debate on the abortion issue [begin, Feb. 17] misinterprets the position Chris Papineau took in his column ["Abortion is not the answer," Feb. 14] and goes on to state that death of a human being's life gives you the right to destroy that human life.

Papineau did not imply that we could kill someone to correct, nor did he assert that we have no choice but to believe lives begins at the moment of conception. Lawson is right to agree that we must place limits on the destruction and murder of children based upon our beliefs. Papineau merely states that human life is precious and that we should not allow no possibility that we are destroying it.

Joseph Reel '91

Abortion should not be denied in every instance

To the Editor:

I have never been permitted to hear so extreme a version of the abortion issue that written by Chris Papineau "Abortion is not the answer," Feb. 14. If it was enlightening I feel that the MIT members of this organization have a genuine concern for human life. However, they are not the extremists who bomb Planned Parenthood clinics. Nevertheless, several sections of the column are misleading.

I cannot countenance the vicious and mocking tone of "if one is going to have sex, one should control one's sexuality," and "Runaway hormones create human life." If the above is true, then how non-marital sexual relations are immoral, and states that, but these insulting phrases cloud the issue at hand and alienate some of the "pro-choice" group. My concern is to reach -- namely, young people, who do not indeed have sexual relations.

I also have news for the organization. Young women do not have sex, and possibly become pregnant, because of "runaway hormones." Physical desire is a potent force, but the driving need to fulfill "love" is far more powerful. The very girls who turn to sex as a source of the love they miss from their parents are the ones who, left alone, pregnant, and being "teamed" are possibly the ones who, left alone, pregnant, and being "teamed" for love, affection, or self-esteem.

Abortion is not evil. It should never be done because of convenience or the smooth running of one's career. Reproduction is a decision people must face down many ways, and sometimes, like other natural forces, must be expected to disrupt plans and opportunities. But pro-life is overly fanatic in its campaign against abortion.

Ross is irreplaceable. The psychological wound never dies. But only a woman who has been raped is able to express the horror of bearing the rapist's child, carrying her within every hour, every second, the reminder of how she was used. Bearing a child, hence, bears some resemblance to how this life carries the mark of his father. Bearing, and possibly raising, the child of her worst enemy, the child, of course, is what it used to be like. A man wanted a woman, and he took her. Perhaps she grew to love him; perhaps she disregarded his children. Or if he hated him enough, he found a way to avoid it. I shall spare you the details.

So a woman can't have an abortion even if death or an extremely defective child is the alternative? My mother would not be alive, and I would not be here, if that were enforced. The "life of a mother" and the price of her mother's life, mine and my brother's, I cannot accept. The logic supports being concerned solely with life, without a thought to the quality of that life. Thousands of people who are putting "no life after birth" don't care about the quality of that life.

Lori L. Zieran '89

"Lettuce" instead of "Life": the price of my mother's life, mine and my brother's, I cannot accept. The logic supports being concerned solely with life, without a thought to the quality of that life. Thousands of people who are putting "no life after birth" don't care about the quality of that life.

Lori L. Zieran '89
Europeans recall diplomats from Iran

Israel, Soviet Union, Egypt engaged in talks

Salvadoran rebel wants to delay elections

Two UN officers wounded in Lebanon

In Japan charged with illegal sale of chemical

IRA claims responsibility for base bombings

Tsunagas names trust fund panel

obarth to be sworn in

Nine dead in private plane crash

Local

Dorch to be sworn in

Tsongas names trust fund panel

Companion ship from mares

Weather

New INS proposal announced

Bush should have taken over after Reagan assassination attempt

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