Hard-core porno may go on

By Barb Moore

The MIT community may have seen the end of the era of hard-core pornographic Registration Day movies with last fall’s showing of Behind the Green Door.

Mike Dornbrook ‘75, Chairman of the Lecture Series Committee (LSC) which sponsors the Registration Day movies, explained, “It seems like that area of society is being watched very closely by librarians and the, Campus Patrol or the Deans. According to Friday’s laws, we can’t show it (hard-core pornography), but we’ve been asked to hold off for a little while on really controversial movies.”

If Jim Hartshorne, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs agreed to “back off on hard-core pornography” because of talks with representatives of the office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Some homosexual film shorts, obtained by LSC through the Student Homophile League (SHL), were screened along with Behind the Green Door, and the Dean’s office fielded a number of complaints about the show, Dornbrook said.

To compound the Dean’s office problems, a story entitled “Tech Sex for Frosh, Week” are above the Daily browses. "1. The writer of the story, Dornbrook, the agreement to movies which were really controversial, and which included a gaming exercise, which will allow each student to “invest” $10,000 in the market. Interest in the course has been high, perhaps indicating that there is still faith in the market—at least at MIT.

Women are trapped in a caste system which regulates their lives, according to Gloria Steinem, an editor and co-founder of Ms. Magazine and one of the leaders of the feminist movement. Steinem spoke early Monday evening to a capacity audience in Kresge Auditorium.

Photo by Tom Eisenhut

Steinem: castes trap women

By Margaret Brandeau

The main thrust of the Women’s movement today is the struggle against a caste system which traps women in rigidly defined lives, according to feminist Gloria Steinen.

“Until we succeed in raising women from the caste system, we will not succeed in feminism.” Steinem, one of the early leaders of the women’s liberation movement, told a capacity audience in Kresge Auditorium last Friday night.

Steinem linked racism and sexism in explaining why she felt that women needed to look at the world in revolutionary, feminist terms. Pointing out that racist societies in Nazi Germany and South Africa have considered women to be inferior to men, she called for the women’s movement to create a new vision of a society in which power is not based on sex or race.

If one is not born both white and male in this culture, one is not considered quite human.” Steinem said, in fighting societal views of women, she said, “we are not fighting for women’s rights, but for human rights.” Society has tended to force women to stay in secondary roles, Steinem said. Through- out history, women have been forced into childbearing she said, even when contraception is available, able to prevent pregnancy. While to knowledge of contra- ception seems to have been fairly well developed, it also seems to have been suppressed, she said.

The women’s movement wants “the power to be able to make the decisions ourselves. We don’t want men to grant us things, but want the power to grant ourselves things,” she said.

Most women, Steinem added, suffer from what she called “terminal guilt.” Gratitude for rights that women have won “and power” that they have been given, she said, tends to blind them “so that they do not see that it is not really power at all.” If it is something that can be given to them, Steinem noted, it “is also something which can be taken away from them.”

But the women’s movement is not fighting for dominance over men, Steinem said, but for autonomy. Women, she said, can have no real power until they have freedom. As an example, she said that men should be “as responsible for children as women are,” and added that she would like to see companies grant parental leave, not maternal leave.

Women must re-think the way they look at the world, Steinem said, and should view the world from feminist terms. Everything from foreign policy and legislation to art and literature should be re-examined, she said, for the effects on feminism.

Admissions 1975: an uncertain start

By Barb Moore

Conflicting signals received by the Office of Admissions have confused the admissions picture for next year’s freshman class.

Despite an increase of nearly 10 per cent in preliminary applications from prospective students, final application figures are running behind last year’s totals, casting concern over a decrease in the size of MIT’s applicant pool.

Peter H. Richardson, Director of Admissions, said he has no explanation for the apparent decrease, noting that after all the counting is done there may not be a decrease. “We should have at least 800 more applications in the office waiting to be counted,” Richardson said, “but the question is, just how many more are there?”

Each year several hundred applications are received too late to be included in the first count, according to Richardson. Last year, there were 3572 final applications counted on January 17, one week after the January 10 deadline, but nearly 4500 prospective students had completed applications by the end of the admissions process.

“The application deadline was moved up to January 1 this year, which may account for a larger-than-usual number of late applications,” Richardson noted. The usual difference between the first count and the final number of applicants can be attributed to late applications and to the difficulty of sorting through the last minute deluge of mail in time for the one-week count. LSC may accept by the pornography laws of Cambridge, and return to the less “controversial” soft-core pornography.