MIT stops Purim meeting
By Siedra Patterson

MIT Seekers did not hold its scheduled Purim meeting on Saturday after the Office of the Provost decided that it must be rescheduled.

But the MIT Seekers did hold a news conference to let invited guests know the event was cancelled. Also, they are investigating its legal right to meet.

Seekers attempted to get a court order to let them hold the meeting, but decided to cancel it at the last minute because of the need to have sufficient time to avoid unwanted stand-ins in the MIT community.

Rosen said that, in effect, Men- nad's decision cancels the meeting. He said, "It would be extremely difficult for us to try to hold the meeting this semester."

The executive committee of the ASA gave three reasons for recommending to the Facilities Committee that the Seekers not be allowed to hold the event in the room they reserved. Those were that the sponsorship of Seekers was not clearly mentioned on every ad for the event, that the event was falsely depicted as a Jewish Purim celebration, and that the event had a potential for becoming a volatile situation.

Ralph Gilfonde, '82, a Jew for Jesus volunteer, said the celebration would be a very Jewish event, and that the event was meant to preserve the rights of the Jewish people.

Gilfonde, who regularly hands out Jewish literature in front of the Student Center, said, "We are trying to make sure that you don't have to give up your Jewish heritage to accept Christ."

All the provost said that the Seekers is the Jewish Messiah can be found in the Hebrew Scriptures.

MIT stops Purim meeting

By Elaine Douglas

After three days of tumultuous women's rights demonstrations in Iran over the last week, Iranian women at MIT were divided on the question of whether their rights would be safeguarded by the new revolutionary Islamic government.

Some women here believe realtions religious elements in Iran are attempting to reduce Iranian women to a traditional subservient pattern of religious discrimination," she said. Seekers are considering asking the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to investigate whether MIT denied its students the rights guaranteed by the U.S. constitution.

The demonstrators were angry, Rosen said, because Stuart and Nancy Quandt, members of the MIT Seekers group, were called to meet with representatives that were to lead the Purim celebration, "had to be there when the invited stu- dents from other campuses walked up to that locked door. We have to tell them why we can't meet," Rosen said.

Haleh Rahimi Daniel Shevitz added that Jewish women at MIT had never encountered a situation where the administration worked in such conflict with one religious group.

"I am so proud of those women here," she said angrily. "They are afraid marriage to Iranians studying at MIT and are not working outside their homes. The fifth is a graduate student at the institute, a Muslim with a respectful view of women," said Zabih Ghayy, "and Khomeini has brought back Islamic law back."

Under Islamic law a man can take four wives as long as he can provide for make-up and hair styles," said one of the women interviewed. "They have no knowledge of the Koran.

The demonstrations in Tehran, one of which according to the New York Times numbered 150,000 turned ugly with reports of women being stoned by male onlookers and another report that at least four women were beaten and stabbed.

"I am furious," said MIT graduate student interviewed Fri- day. "On TV I could see the men, their faces full of anger and they were going after the women demonstrators. Any movement for freedom they label communist," the student said angrily.

"But the process of liberation cannot be reversed," she said, "and I am so proud of those women who came out, even though probably there is a mood in buildings in various cities in Iran are barring the entry of all women whose heads are uncovered. "These men in buildings exist," said another Iranian volunteer, "but they are not Khomeini's men. They are misguided, and they have no knowledge of the Koran."

Tanenbaum, and each of the other four women interviewed at Eastgate, is a graduate student, and one has an M.D. Four are married to Iranians studying at MIT, and are not working outside their homes. The fifth is a graduate student at the institute, a Muslim with a respectful view of women," said Zabih Ghayy, "and Khomeini has brought back Islamic law back. One thousand years ago men and women could divorce for just reasons. If our society goes exactly by the rules written in the Koran, there will be justice for everyone, including women," she said.

Islamic law guarantees women property rights in case of divorce, the women said, right to be employed, and the right to birth control. All five women said they favor birth control.

The graduate student who was so angry about the Ayatollah's decree said that passing a law giving men the right to divorce their wives at whim, and decreed that men may marry as many as four more wives.

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