The Tech, Friday, October 23, 1981

Opinion

James Watts tour of America

Yellowstone National Park

Puritan parking

The Great Smoky Mountain

National Park

NIAGARA FALLS

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 wipe me!

To the Editor:

The MIT administration recently handed down a decision regarding the MIT Committee on Central America (COCA) permission to hold a city-wide rally on campus in protest of the upcoming visit by Vice President George Bush. The decision was communicated to the COCA by Dr. Louis Menand on behalf of the Facilities Use Committee, the Office of the Provost, and the Campus Police. According to Dr. Menand, it has been a longstanding policy at MIT to restrict the access of non-MIT groups to MIT events. The administration is currently weighing the outcome of the Princeton vs. Schmidt case before the US Supreme Court, which concerns the right of the university to deny access to outsiders. MIT has issued a statement supporting Princeton in its effort to overturn a lower court ruling.

When Bush's visit was first announced, the COCA decided to respond with its own demonstration to protest the Reagan administration's policies on Central America. The committee made an application for, and indeed received, permission to hold a rally on the Student Center steps the evening of Friday, October 30. Within days, the committee was contacted by several local political groups expressing their interest in holding a joint demonstration. It rapidly became obvious that Bush's presence in Cambridge would be offensive to a large part of the community. Thus the COCA went back to the administration and requested permission to hold an open invitation rally.

The problem as seen by MIT is that MIT events are supposed to be for MIT people. Of course, any event that takes place on MIT (Please turn to page 7)

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