Asia proposal draws fire

By Tony Zamarripa

A proposal from the Executive Committee of the Association of Student Activities (ASA) to tax student groups charging admission fees is riling up opposition from a very vocal and outspoken student group at an open forum Tuesday evening.

The proposed ASA motion would require "all groups that wish to charge admission fees over more than three movies per academic term at MIT to obtain a movie license for the ASA...the fee for the movie license would be 10 percent of the revenue that the license generates from its movies, including admission, concession, and publicity revenue."

Last year, 30 percent of the gross profit of the movie license was given to other ASA-recognized activities. The proposal would possibly end the Lecture Series Committee's monopoly to charge admission for movies; students could not agree on the motion's legal effects.

The ASA Executive Committee considered the motion at its meeting earlier this April but delayed a vote pending an open forum on the topic.

"I have never thought whatever has been put into the proposal is true," said chairman of the ASA's member organization, the Harvard Cooperative Society (LSC). "I was informed the ASA wanted to put a ten percent tax on ASA getting money," he said.

"There is no history for the ASA having anything to do with funding," said Marc S. Blank, former director. "I want to know what accountability the ASA has to anyone," he added.

Several speakers supported the elimination of LSC's movie monopoly. "I won't beyond the monopoly, but make sure the quality of movies is not reduced," said Bill Hofman of LSC.

"Movies are only profitable on a nine-movie monopoly," said Patti. He explained LSC had a special agreement with the Audio-Visual Department and the projectionists union to use film projectors. Only LSC projectionists showing LSC movies can use the MIT film booths, according to Patti. "LSC bought, paid for, and maintains a god del of equipment," he added.

"There is no reason to fund for Student Activities (ODSA) every other Friday," said Steve Thomas '85 as representatives to the UA Finance Board.

The ASA resolution "Doesn't make sense within itself, it doesn't make sense in the real world, and it shows an appalling lack of responsibility," said Frank Salz '84.

"This thing is based on an amazing amount of ignorance," said Salz.

Salz contended the ASA executive committee had not researched the history of LSC's movie monopoly. He faulted students for throwing planning of the property tax reduction of 71/2 percent by ballot question.

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