Community considers pornography issue

"Garbage" breeds diseased minds

To the Editor:

In the controversy over the planned showing of "Deep Throat," there is a great hullabaloo about rights. However, there is no understanding shown that rights must always go hand in hand with responsibilities. For too long, our society has promulgated rights without demanding any responsibility, and our society has become so leprous that the quality of our corporate life is abysmally low.

In the computer field, the expression "garbage in, garbage out" means that if you put garbage into the computer, you can only get garbage from it. If you fill the minds of people, especially the young, with such garbage as "Deep Throat," the garbage will come out in its lives in some form at some time. The human memory is greater than any computer memory, and for anyone to deliberately implant anything as sick as "Deep Throat" into the memory forever, for the purpose of "entertainment," is to create a situation of abuse in that human being, which may manifest itself in some way in that person's life, at the very least in a distorted view of life, which may result in troubled relationships. The Biblical injunction of Philippians 4:8 is not only good religion, but is good psychology, and a stable base for a healthy corporate life. "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good report, if there is anything of excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you."

"The human mind is too wonderful to waste," and life is not long enough to put all the excellent, uplifting knowledge of life into the mind that we'd like. Why, then, waste such precious time and memory on garbage? Also, there is a certain level of civil dress, language, and behavior that we agree to, because we respect one another and do not want to offend others who are in community with us. Most people continue to private use (with consenting others) anything which they know would be generally offensive to others.

It is to be hoped that the Lecture Series Committee will in the future live up to its responsibilities toward the whole MIT community, by voluntarily adhering to commonly accepted standards of decency.

David Gordon Wilson
Faculty Advisor, MIT Group Against Smoking Pollution

Warns of films' danger

To the Editor:

My wife and I have been rash enough to see two porn movies over the last decade, and feel it necessary to warn the MIT community of the potential for serious consequences. In our experience, the characters in these movies continually indulge in horrible practices, liable to result in damage to the health of themselves and others. It is possible for the viewer of such movies to become desensitized to the dangers involved, even possible to the extent of experimentation.

These disgusting practices are, of course, the smoking of cigarettes, pipes and cigars. We don't see these on celluloid fantasy, I wish to comment on the reality of "Deep Throat," and that our social values tend to protect us from the dangers of the latter, while leaving us vulnerable to the former [Feedback, Feb. 4].

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David Gordon Wilson
Faculty Advisor, MIT Group Against Smoking Pollution

Love lace kidnapped and raped for "Deep Throat"

To the Editor:

The MIT community has recently heard much concerning the morality of "Deep Throat." We are told, for example, that "Star Wars" contains material that is hideously violent when compared to "Deep Throat," and that our social values tend to protect us from the dangers of the latter, while leaving us vulnerable to the former [Feedback, Feb. 4].

Rather than bore the reader with yet another description of celluloid fantasy, I wish to concern myself with the morals of "Deep Throat." Contrary to popular belief, society does not prepare us for the reality of "Deep Throat." When a typical movie viewer sees the film, they unconsciously make a highly sexist assumption that is drilled into us, namely, that any female who would appear in such a film is a "bimbo" who is dying to sexually satisfy all the men she can.

The truth is that Linda Lovelace was kidnapped by the producers of "Deep Throat," as well as being tortured and sexually abused by them. I'm afraid that very few of us really know what sexual abuse is, as the word "sexual abuse" can not convey the horror they deserve. The next time you see the movie, be aware that you are actually witnessing a real, live rape. This is the real message of the film: you are sexually willing, perhaps eager, to pay money to the producers of the movie for you to see Ms. Lovelace being raped. Try explaining that to your date.

Derin Sherman '84

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