feedback

Christian student decry pornography

To the Editor:

It is with hesitation that we write to you today. We are aware that there are many opportunities to be misunderstood, misinterpreted, or even offended. But since something must be said. There is not a single word in our hearts as we see a tradition carried on at MIT that all find dishonoring. We are speaking of the registration day moving.

A little preface before we go on. We are writing this letter from an evangelical Christian standpoint. Let us say that in the opinion that sex is a God-given gift for the ultimate expression of intimacy between the members of a married couple. It is not dirty, immoral, or frowned upon within our circle of faith.

As portrayed in pornography, does not coincide with this biblical viewpoint. However, it portrays the act as simply physical. If the goal of the sex act is greater intimacy within the marital context, then sex outside of that boundary cannot represent the intention of the Creator. Also, since such films and other materials destroy the privacy of the sexual union, they tend to remove much of the beauty and sanctity intended by the God who made such a union possible.

It is not our intention to censor such films. We are openly opposed to them and the industry behind them, but realize that such opposition itself is possible only in an environment that allows freedom of expression. However, as representatives of the three largest groups in the evangelical Christian community of MIT, we must point out that such material as presented in these films is diametrically opposed to God's purposes in giving His children a sexuality. Thus we voice our reaction, and that of some members of our groups.

We are grateful to The Tech for providing a forum of expression, and welcome any response in person or in thin paper.

Dana M. Starovanovich '84
Campus Crusade for Christ
Mark Hagenmooster '84
United Christian Fellowship
Mark C. Baker '84
MIT Seekers

Secretary and editor of Tool and Die attacks review of humor magazine

To the Editor:

The review of the new humor magazine, Tool and Die, [Sept. 11] has prompted my first reaction to the medium of the newspaper in my entire MIT career. The fact that I am one of the medium's readers and that the goal of the sex act is greater intimacy within the marital context, then sex outside of that boundary cannot represent the intention of the Creator. Also, since such films and other materials destroy the privacy of the sexual union, they tend to remove much of the beauty and sanctity intended by the God who made such a union possible.

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Dean M. Starovanovich '84
Campus Crusade for Christ
Mark Hagenmooster '84
United Christian Fellowship
Mark C. Baker '84
MIT Seekers

Alumna: few changes for women

To the Editor:

I arrived on campus just a few days ago as a visiting faculty member and yesterday picked up a copy of the "Tech," to learn what MIT students were doing and how they were thinking.

32 years after my graduation from this hallowed and revered institution that has the reputation of being the international leader in intellectual development of all kinds — humanistic, as well as technological and scientific. I had expected to find many changes on campus, and not only in its physical appearance. For example, I had heard that women constitute approximately one quarter of the student body.

When I was a student here, the ratio was one in one hundred. Several of my fellow students, many of whom were veterans returning from World War II, told me to go home, that I belonged in the kitchen. Every attempt I made to discuss homework, coursework, or research with female students was considered by them as a "come-on." I gave up after the first few tries and learned to rely only on myself to find answers to my questions. As a teaching assistant in Course XVIII, I was not allowed to teach. The department head, who was afraid to put me in front of a calculus class for fear of the students' reactions, as the only woman student in my department my first year on campus, I was assigned to the office of a full professor who was on leave.

In this way I was totally insulated from all the other graduate students. My third year here, three other women graduate students came and we were all assigned to a large broom closet on the third floor of Building 12 under the eaves. It was a large broom closet — it accommodated four desks. I went there yesterday to see it. It has been remodeled and is now a small lecture hall, but there is still no room number on the floor. I picked up my copy of The Tech on my way to visit this room.

Very little seems to have really changed. I was dismayed at reading the headline, "Lecture Series Comm., will show an X-rated film." Pornography is degrading and dehumanizing to both sexes, but is particularly so to women, since it invariably portrays women as victims. Showing a porn film on registration day is sending a clear message to female students to expect to be victimized at MIT and to freshmen men that it is appropriate to victimize women. In the past, when I attended several film and window dressing has changed here in the last 32 years, not the level of humanity.

Violet B. Haas '49
Visiting Professor

Even though these men come from different countries, have different backgrounds and beliefs...Lebanon has proved they all have something in common:

U.S. China

\[\text{[Image]}\]

...Good aim

Editorials, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, represent the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, and news editor.

Columns are usually written by members of The Tech staff and represent the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the Editor are written by members of the MIT community and represent the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the newspaper.

All submissions should be typed, double spaced, on a 57-character line and bear the author's signature. Unsigned letters will not be printed, but authors' names may be withheld upon request. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense all letters.