Editorials

Offensiveness is price of freedom

The Lecture Series Committee has decided to show a sexually explicit film, and its action once again caused outcry from the community. The issue is being argued, however, not on what LSC's recent decision, but rather its right to make the decision. Having failed to persuade the Lecture Series Committee to back down, the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs is attempting to cloud the issue by attacking LSC's monopoly on charging admission to commercial films granted to it in 1966 and reaffirmed by the Association for Student Affairs in 1976. While any such action is tempting to cloud the issue by attacking LSC's monopoly on charging admission to commercial films granted to it in 1966 and reaffirmed by the Association for Student Affairs in 1976.

MIT must back its words with action

Recent actions seem to indicate the MIT administration is long on talk but short on action when it comes to its official liberal financial aid policy. If MIT really opposes restrictions on financial aid, the realization of free expression. Pornographic movies may offend some segments of the MIT community; James Buoard movies may offend others. However, that difference is being ignored. The real test comes in taking action. Gray's refusal to act in the case of the Solomon amendment is hypocritical and can serve only to damage his credibility in the educational and political communities.

Wait for cheaper computers

Every day that I use a big computer, with the waiting for principles and aspirations over low response times, I get a little closer to buying my own machine. Luckily, MIT has been negotiating with the Digital Equipment Corporation, International Business Machines, and Apple to get discounts on personal computers. The prospect of a 33 or 45 percent discount on a Macintosh, Rainbow or IBM PC forces me to wait just another few months before making the decision about whether to buy a computer.

The decision program does not mean everyone should run out and buy a computer, but it does mean one should not buy a computer this summer. That waiting is the purpose of this column. The decision should be good and there is really no reason other than boredom for buying a personal computer at a higher price. The discounts are being negotiated by the Department of Purchasing and Stores and Information Processing Services. The program will be open to the entire MIT community, for both personal and business purchases.

Discounts are not available now — IBM and DEC have been giving price breaks to students for years — but extending academic discounts to personal use is a bit new.

Apple made quite a splash at the end of last spring which means movement of the Apple University Consortium, which offers discounts of 60 percent to member schools. Rumors say MIT turned Apple down because of the large volume. However, MIT simply could not commit itself to the purchase of $6 million worth of totally unknown and unused microcomputers over the past three years.

Luckily, MIT did not need Apple's Consortium. Information Processing Services had its own master plan. Most people associate IPS with that lumbering dinosaur we call Multics, but Professor Bruce is showing the sort of ingenuity that IPS needs to survive the onslaught of microcomputers. Even when the cost of a discounted computer is amortized over four years, it is still greater than what most students spend on books or supplies.

MIT will not force you to buy a computer — Project Attache saves you from that fate. The only reason to buy a computer is if you want one. You may want one because you are tired of staring... I sometimes buy books I know are in the library because I need to keep track of my notes and/or religious convictions, as are American Nazis and Communists. The danger comes when they try to subjugate the community to their own personal desires.

We, the members of Radical MIT, invite those opposed to the new movie,offending only to damage his credibility in the educational and political communities.