A lesson in White House reporting

"[Nixon] rarely holds press conferences, and full personal relationships with the working press are almost non-existent. The press corps like a gang of tramps, as one press secretaryRon Ziegler..." (on the Campaign Trail '72)

When the press corps goes to Washington armed with proving quips aimed at eliciting backhanded truths about the horrors of the current administration. Predictably, we received very few, revealing answers. In fact, the most shocking thing we could report was the immense difficulty of getting facts of any kind, good or bad, out of the Reagan White House. (Please turn to page 5)

Much ado about porn flicks

Harvard Yard is surrounded by a wall. MFF doesn't have any means for locking in students, but you would think it did after reading the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs' policy statement on sexually explicit films.

One of the key points in the policy statement is that films which are deemed "unacceptable" may still be shown, although not in Kresge Auditorium. As long as the group showing them gives a six-week notice to other groups may plan alternative activities. Does the Dean's Office feel that students who can't "acceptable" entertainment on campus have no where else to go? It's not as if there were gates encircling an auditorium. Does the Committee have exonerated certain criteria which make a sexually explicit film "acceptable"? I don't think people who oppose pornography will be satisfied when they are told a pornographic movie being shown has passed the committee's standards and is "acceptable." Many people who are against campus pornography will not stop until they have total censorship of sexually explicit films. For these groups, the Repeta Committee's action is merely the first step. And it's a pretty good first step, at least as far as these pornography groups are concerned. A movie can be deemed unacceptable if it doesn't "reflect believable reality or more normally in the relationships and sex display." That essentially gives those who will judge the movies a license to say what is and what is not normal sexual expression.

Last September, LSC showed the XXX film Take Off. Then LSC Chairman Lee J. DaCosta '83 thought the film was "not degrading to either women or men." I saw the film; I didn't find it objectionable. It didn't degrade men or women. In a few places it was even charming, but I never would have been approved under the new criteria because the scenes in the movie were not believable.

Despite these failings, Take Off drew over 2600 people into Kresge. I do not know of any women living in McCormick or Green Hall who were assaulted, either verbally or physically, by hosts of raving males exiting Kresge. Yes, this is one of the reasons the Dean's Office gives for not allowing objectionable movies to be shown in Kresge: the audience is right next to women's dormitories.

The OSDA feels that the effects of pornography are short-term, not long-term. They don't want the films shown at Kresge because it is right next to McCormick and Green Hall. But they say it's okay to show the same film in 26-100. I guess they feel that any top students leaving the auditorium will have cooled down by the time they've walked back to the west side of campus. The sad truth is that the effects of pornography, if any, are long-term, not short-term. It is repeated exposure which fosters attitudes of male dominance and (Please turn to page 6)

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