City council rejects porn bill

By Michael J. Garrison, Staff Writer

Cambridge City Council last Monday defeated a motion to reconsider an earlier 5-4 decision to overturn the city's drug-free policy and reverse an order by the Massachusetts Board of Health to place the measure on the ballot.

The referendum, sponsored by the Women's Alliance Against Pornography (WAAP), would allow people to sue the manufacturers and distributors of pornography for damages on a claim of civil rights violation, according to the Sept. 12 issue of the Cambridge Chronicle.

Because the petition received the required number of signatures, Massachusetts law requires the City Council either to pass the measure or to place it on a November ballot.

But the council decided to kill the measure on a motion of "almost unanimously," Major Franuled, he said.

A similar situation occurred two years ago when the council failed to put the "Nuclear Free Cambridge" referendum on the ballot, according to the council president.

"Very similar issues arose in the Nuclear Free Cambridge contest," said City Councilman Donald E. Sullivan '74, who made the motion to reconsider the measure. Sullivan asserted that Cambridge would suffer a "catastrophe" because of contamination and that the courts had not set such a precedent.

Dorothy disagreed: "The different case here is that it seems to me, is considerable. This referendum has had an in com- mon court ruling declaring it is unconstitutional." The council could legally overturn the decision, she said. But the council failed to do so because the "Nuclear Free Cambridge" referendum on the ballot, according to the council president.

Dorothy argued: "The differ- ence in this case is that it seems to me, is considerable. This referendum has had an in com- mon court ruling declaring it is unconstitutional. The council could legally overturn the decision, she said. But the council failed to do so because the "Nuclear Free Cambridge" referendum on the ballot, according to the council president.

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