East Campus shows x-rated movie

(Continued from page 1) students' rights."

Representatives of East Campus met with Tewhey Wednesday afternoon after they learned of their affair. Tewhey "expressed his concerns, but not to prohibit the showing," Whitman said. "He was concerned about students' rights."

Several students complained to Tewhey that the film had been shown. He refused to comment on any action the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs may take. Tewhey said that he had told the students of complaints he had received. He had hoped that the East Campus representatives would have spoken to those students before going ahead with the showing.

But Whitman said Tewhey did not tell her who complained about the film. She said no student had complained to her directly, and she had no way of identifying the offended students. Several students complained to Tewhey that they felt pressured into signing the petition. But all students involved in soliciting signatures said they did nothing more than ask people to sign the petition.

"Polart the campus"

Undergraduate Association President Manuel Rodriguez '89 expressed concern that the fight over pornography could "polart the campus" along gender lines. He suggested that most males were in favor of showing sexually explicit films, while most women were opposed.

But 30 percent of the East Campus residents who signed the petition were female. This percentage is only slightly lower than the percentage of women in East Campus as a whole — approximately 55 percent of the residents are female.

Dershowitz case pending

The executive committee's letter said the film was shown "to rekindle interest" in Dershowitz's case pending before the Committee on Discipline.

Tewhey had charged Dershowitz with violating the pornography policy after he showed "Deep Throat" on Feb. 2. But Dershowitz was not notified of a hearing before the COD until after the spring term had ended. He has been given until Sept. 24 to respond to the charges.

Dershowitz praised East Campus' action. "It's very important that people are able to express their free speech rights as they consider the film," he said. "People should not be intimidated by the policy as it now exists."

Dershowitz said he has not decided how he will respond to the charges against him.

History of policy

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs first enacted a pornography policy after he received complaints — that it would offend members of the MIT community. Whitman explained. But when Tewhey was contacted yesterday, he expressed surprise that the movie had been shown. He refused to comment on any action the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs may take.

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The policy was aimed directly at LSC's Registration Day movie, which was traditionally x-rated. The policy said that violations "could result in a hearing before the ODSA."

The policy was slightly revised in the spring of 1986. The membership of the screening committee was modified, and specific references to LSC were removed. In addition, the revised policy listed guidelines for use in reviewing sexually explicit films and addressed the use of sexually explicit films in an academic setting. After several forums, this revised policy was approved by the Academic Council.

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