Ruling suggests pornography policy should be abolished

(Continued from page 1) It has found major opposition from the Lecture Series Commit-tee, student groups, and individual students several times since its inception in the summer of 1984. The policy was first introduced in response to complaints by members of the community about LSC's tradition of presenting sexually explicit films on Orientation Day. The policy originally called for the Dean for Student Affairs to appoint a 12-member Ad Hoc committee to engage LSC's plans to show viewing any X-rated or unrated sexually explicit film before it was shown and deciding whether it was necessary to set conditions on the "time, circumstances, and location" of the showing.

When the policy was first re-leased, former LSC Chairman Timothy L. Huckelberry '84 called it "a compromise between not being able to show [pornographic] films at all and being able to show them any time."

In December 1984, the policy came under fire when McKee cancelled LSC's plans to show the Opening of Misty Beethoven on the grounds that the Ad Hoc Screening Committee had not been given sufficient notice to schedule a screening six weeks in advance of the proposed showing date. But the original policy did not state any requirements for advanced screening, and only re-quired campus groups to give "sufficient prior notice" of intent to show the film. Huckelberry acceded McKee of "redistributing the guidelines to fulfill her own pur-

The authority of the Committee to make this ruling is derived from the Lecture Series Committee's discretion to engage LSC's plans to show sexually explicit films. Specifically, the revised policy had a new clause which exempted faculty members from the requirements of the policy, while the policy was disregarded for the showing of Not a Love Story. LSC was ev-

Instead of permitting to show The Opening of Misty Beethoven even though LSC had adhered to the requirements of the policy, the women's Studies Office was planning to show the film, but did not require the film to be screened.

At the time, the action was considered by many to represent an ODSS-created double stan-

The authority of the Committee to make this ruling is derived from paragraph 1.73 of the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty. By unanimous vote, the Committee thereby dismisses the charges against you.

As to the concerns that led to the formulation of the Policy Statement on Sexually Explicit Films, the Committee urges the LSC community to engage in a renewed vigorous debate to address these concerns. Sincerely,

Paul G. Joos
Chairman, Committee on Discipline

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COD letter to Dershowitz

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

November 16, 1987

Dear Mr. Dershowitz:

I am writing to inform you of the result of deliberations by the Committee on Discipline on November 17, 1987, regarding the charges brought against you by Dean Townshend.

The Committee finds that the MIT Policy Statement on Sexually Explicit Films constitutes an excessive restraint on freedom of expression at MIT. This freedom is fundamental to the broader principle of academic freedom and cannot be unreasonably abridged by administrative action. The Policy is, therefore, inappropriate for MIT.

The authority of the Committee to make this ruling is derived from paragraph 1.73 of the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty. By unanimous vote, the Committee thereby dismisses the charges against you.

As to the concerns that led to the formulation of the Policy Statement on Sexually Explicit Films, the Committee urges the MIT community to engage in a renewed vigorous debate to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Joos
Chairman, Committee on Discipline

Research Technician with B.S. in Biology, Chemistry, or Biochemistry and suitable laboratory experience sought for preparation of "finger" protein-RNA/DNA complexes for X-ray structure group. Some practical knowledge of protein and/or nucleic acid biochemical techniques is essential. The work will involve work with Xenopus frogs, column chromatography and gel electrophoresis to monitor purity of proteins and nucleic acids. Please send resume to: Rose Brown, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Laboratory of Structural Molecular Biology, at Harvard University, 7 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

In the spring of 1987 the policy on sexually explicit films endured intense scrutiny when the Women's Studies Office sponsored an Independent Activities Period showing of the unrated, sexually explicit educational film Not a Love Story without prior screen-

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