Opinion

Pornography harms society

To the Editor:

Adole L. Dershowitz '89 was charged with violating the MIT policy on the sale and distribution of pornographic films, by showing the film Deep Throat on Registration Day, but he deemphasized on Disciple ruled to dismiss the charge, stating in the policy "contains an excessive restraint on freedom of expression at MIT." ("COD overrules MIT pornography policy," Nov. 20) The Tech also stated that the COD urged the MIT community "to engage in a renewed vigorous debate to address the concerns which led to the formation of the policy." As a long-term member of the MIT community, I offer any contribution to the debate.

Because the Sadleff was concerned that the media had not given sufficient coverage to the Department of Justice's investigations into pornography, the published Pornography's Victims: Exceptions from Official Transcripts of Proceedings, U.S. Department of Justice, The Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. A final report was published by the Commission, but the actual hearings were never published by anyone until this book, and they contain the most published by anyone until this of the actual hearings were never of the United States. It is innerv-ible that our whole society is so hood-winked by the wolves in sheep's clothing who are destroy-ing the fabric of our society, under the guise of "promoting the freedom of expression." It is the victims and addicts of pornography who have no "freedom." Obviously, MIT does not/cannot permit total freedom without any restraints whatever! The question is, at what level of civiliz-ation (or responsibility) will it draw the line? Pornography is an educational tool to teach perversion, brutality, enslave-ment, and the physical, mental, and emotional destruction of others. Where are all the moral, responsible people in every walk of life in the MIT community who should speak our against these evils? Where are they all that they are not speaking out on this grave matter? Someone gives con-cons: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Pornography and other evils prevalent and accepted in our society will bring down even so prestigious an institution as MIT, and even such a powerful, free nation as the United States. Par-tents and grandparents would do anything for the happiness and well-being of their children and grandchildren except to guard the future for them. The children of today in the United States may live to suffer the agents of seek-ling our great nation in captivity, unless we re-ject, seeking God's help.

To be just, rights have to go hand-in-hand with responsibilities. Dershowitz is getting enor-mous leadership and guidance from his uncle, Alan Dershowitz, at Harvard. The question is not whether Adam can defend his private idea of a "freedom" which is destructive to the com-mon good, but whether we (and we will use our God-given free-dom responsibly for the common good, the common good).

Homeless acted on their initiative

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that such a proposal is not against MIT, it is for MIT. The Institute has a responsibility to society, as President Paul E. Gray '51 has pointed out several times in his annual reports to the Corpora-tion. The responsibility is espe-cially high in this case because many of the 8000 people who will work at "University Park" will be professionals seeking housing in Cambridge in an already over-crowded market.

Yes, it is a great trunk. Little serious money, but MIT makes much larger in-vestments all the time. The $10 million investment in a new bio-log-y building planned for the former TW 61(3) may eventually serve society by discovering new ways to treat diseases. But these advanced techniques are of little use to people at the bottom of society (including the Tent City residents who work) who are dy-ing of pneumonia because they can't even afford shelter to keep warm.

The controversy over Tent City will continue because MIT's most recent actions have merely pro-longed the problem by setting up a trial that will exhaust MIT and further weaken MIT's bargaining position with the City. The Institute has not even recognized the community to par-ticipate in resolving the matter by holding open discussions.

Rich Cowan '84

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