McBay concerned by porn policy revisions

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explicit films.

The present debate over the pornography policy was sparked by the showing of Deep Throat in East Campus' Talbot Lounge last February by Adam L. Dershowitz '89. Dershowitz was charged before the Committee on Discipline with violating the policy, but the charges were dismissed by the COD which labeled the pornographic policy too restrictive.

A new structured pornography policy could be a step forward, McBay argued. The details of the policy, its implementation, and channels for complaints would have to be worked out by the Academic Council, McBay added.

Several faculty members have argued that no policy is necessary. Friedman acknowledged their concerns, but said "censorship of any kind is probably not good but some amount of compromise has to be made to regulate things."

No agreement in UA

"I highly encourage student input on the issue and hope that productive discussions shall be directed by the UA [Undergraduate Association] and GSC [Graduate Student Council] to inform us on students opinions," Friedman said.

There was no agreement at the UA Council meeting on how the UA should respond to the FPC's report. Bill McGrath '89, student member on the FPC, stressed how critical it was to maintain some sort of control of "pornographic material" on campus.

"Originally, I wasn't sold on the idea that a policy was necessary," McGrath said. "However, when I discovered that 30 percent of college women and eight to nine percent of college men have been sexually abused as children, I discovered how important it was to come up with something," he said.

One UA member asked why MIT could not simply follow community standards such as those that are in effect in Cambridge. "These standards apply to obscenity and not pornography. Legally they are distinct things," McGrath replied.

Dershowitz remarked that pornography comes down to "what is offensive to me." He argued that "having randomly selected individuals censoring the right to speak on what they subjectively find to be offensive would not work."

One member of the forum brought up the point that there cannot be an infinite number of committees screening racist films, violent films and anything that may be considered offensive. Discussion was eventually postponed until the next UA meeting.