Dorms must consider porn

(Continued from page 4)

In the past, Lecture Series Committee members have claimed that they only show pornographic films because they raise money. This profit motive should be removed from groups showing pornographic films at MIT, an academic institution. A very significant accomplishment of the review of the pornography policy is that it has generated widespread discussion of the issues. A yearly colloquium dealing with pornography and other general issues of sexism and racism should be organized. (The Institute can agree on appropriate actions, the Institute can and must deal with reported incidents of harassment now.) Harassers should be punished. We are aware that many cases of harassment are dealt with on an individual basis, and that often the offender stops after communicating with the person he/she is harassing or speaking with an intermediary. In other cases, such action is inadequate. Penalties should include suspension and expulsions from the Institute. In particular, repeat offenders, whether students, staff, or faculty, must be told to leave the Institute. Only by imposing severe penalties can the Institute send a clear message to potential harassers and to the public on its stand against harassment.

Documentation of harassment at MIT is essential for its elimination. Many members of the MIT community are unaware of the magnitude of the problem. The annual report listing incidents of harassment reported to the administration should be made public. Details and names must be kept strictly confidential, but the general nature of each incident should be described. The resolution of these cases should also be reported. As present, too many of the more important publications documenting harassment have been written by students (E.J. Sakheim, "Can't You Take a Joke?" MIT SM thesis, 1986) or "Barriers to Equality: Women in Computer Science at MIT," prepared by female graduate students and research staff in the Laboratory for Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT, 1983). In administration, not the students, should be responsible for recording and compiling this information. All cases should be docu-