Free speech claims cannot excuse harassment

Once again, Adam L. Dershowitz has appointed himself the champion of free speech and expression on the MIT campus ("Political correctness: censorship from the left," April 23). Dershowitz states that he showed Deep Throat five times in the five past years as a protest for free speech. This in spite of many letters in The Tech stating that Deep Throat is basically a documentary of brutality and rape, or the equivalent of a "snuff" film where the images and scenes depicted on the movie screen are real and not the work of special effects and the magic of the movie camera.

Many individuals on this campus have exhorted Dershowitz to select a pornographic movie for his "exercise of free speech" that is not a documentary of criminal activity. Dershowitz claims that he neither subscribes to the views, nor supports the criminal activities against women shown in Deep Throat. Yet even after five years of discussion in The Tech and with "Professors," Dershowitz continues to show this worst example of how pornography exploits and degrades women. I do not believe for a minute, and I hope that no one on this campus believes either, that Dershowitz is a champion of free speech. Dershowitz is a person who is still living by the adolescent impulses that lead him to indulge in the viewing of pornography depicting the rape and violent degradation of women.

By showing Deep Throat, he signifies that he is a champion of oppression and degradation of women, a champion of the well-documented male culture of rape and violence toward women that unfortunately exists in our society.

Dershowitz is not a champion of free speech, instead he is a champion of self-promotion and self-aggrandizement, and a champion of the unscrupulous platitudes that the ends justify the means. A more thoughtful individual might take the time to research the instruments that he uses to protest for free speech, and select a film that is equally controversial, but perhaps not so clearly anti-women. Instead, Dershowitz hides behind the political claptrap of "political correctness" as in his letter. A gentleman would not show Deep Throat, and you, Dershowitz, are no gentleman.

Norman M. Werden, PhD '91

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