GAMIT members ask "Why?"

To the editor:
From the middle of December to the middle of January the GAMIT (Gays at MIT) bulletin board was vandalized on five separate occasions. Each time all of the materials inside were lost. Some of these were personal property which unfortunately cannot be replaced. To replace the present bulletin board with one that cannot be forced open would cost GAMIT upwards of $384, a burden which we shouldn't have to bear and one which we presently cannot.

We found that the Campus Patrol could do little but increase patrols in that area. Even when we consulted the MIT psychiatric service, in the hope of finding out what would motivate an individual to do this and how to deal with it, we found that little constructive advice could be offered. But we were made aware of an interesting quote by the Kahne, in the 1979 "Report to the Chancellor":

"Conventional wisdom among media observers celebrates a 'return to tradition' on the American college campus. A more apt description would stress the fearful conformity and anxious sub-ordination of intellectual curiosity and moral concern among students, faculty, and staff in the interest of furthering their careers. It seems rather strange and disquieting that such an academic ambiance should be reported approvingly as 'traditional.' We find it disturbing that this fearful conformity and moral sub-ordination appears to have stepped into the MIT community. In an intellectual community where the free expression of ideas in un-dergraduate, we think that it is unfortunate that some individuals have taken it upon themselves to decide exactly what the MIT community will and will not read. We believe that this right is reserved for the individual. GAMIT has no intention of retaliating by becoming a vigilante group. We are only interested in resuming the use of our bulletin board without it being destroyed. It is hoped that these incidents will spontaneously stop or if necessary with the help of the MIT community and Campus Patrol that the offending individuals will be identified.

If there are any individuals who have strong objections to our bulletin board, we would appreciate it if they would have the courage to take responsibility for their opinions and that they would either express them in print or voice them at one of our meetings. They are open to the entire community and everyone is welcome to come and talk. The date and time is always posted on the bulletin board in advance.

The Members of GAMIT