GA calls for male access to McCormick cafeteria

By Tom Lovato

A resolution to encourage the Directors of Food Services and Housing to "modify the McCormick Dining Hall in such a way as to respect the internal regulations of McCormick Hall while permitting use of the dining hall by the entire MIT community" was passed by the General Assembly (GA) during their session last Thursday.

The resolution was brought before the GA by two of its members, John Bassano '80 and Dave Medek '82, both of MacGregor House. In their addresses to the assembly, both of them said that they felt the present McCormick dining policy discriminates against members of the MIT community. Medek felt that the policy was a form of "blatant sexual discrimination."

Both of the resolution's sponsors were certain that a compromise could be found that would preserve the integrity and security of the hall while allowing access to the dining facilities by the entire MIT community.

Two student members of the McCormick Hall Dining Committee were at the meeting and gave the position of McCormick residents on opening the dining hall. They pointed out that while McCormick residents would like more people to use their dining hall, there were several problems that make compromise difficult. McCormick's present dining policy, they said, was implemented in response to recent security problems at the hall. Also, according to Massachusetts law, there must be an accessible men's room if males are allowed to use the dining hall. There is presently no men's room, said the committee members, but McCormick residents would be "amenable" to any necessary renovations.

Under the present system, any non-resident must be on a guest list to be able to use McCormick's dining facilities. Each guest must be sponsored by a resident and each resident is responsible for the actions of her guest. Both male and female guests must be on the guest list.

During discussion of the McCormick resolution, several proposals for compromise were mentioned, most of them dealing with the security problem. None of these proposals were included in the resolution.

The resolution was passed by the assembly after a half hour of discussion.

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