MIT to defend union complaint

By Ivan Fong

Local 1445 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Internationa, AFL-CIO, has filed an unfair labor practice complaint against the Harvard Cooperative Society and MIT.

The complaint will be arbitrated by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and was the result of a February 20 arrest where MIT has been supporting efforts by Coop employees to unionize, a vote on which will take place on March 26.

In the charge against the two co-respondents, Warren H. Pyle, an attorney for Angoff, Goldman, Manning, Pyle, and Wagner, stated that the arrested workers were "in a public area of the ground floor lobby [of the Student Center] near a stairway which leads to the employees entrance . . . prior to their scheduled starting time."

James J. Fandel, Personnel Office Manager of Labor Relations, said, "I don't know what their point is." Lawyers for MIT will be examining the complaint early this week, but "I have no information at this state," according to Fandel.

News Office Director Robert M. Byers confirmed that "the Institute has a right to regulate the right to use of MIT facilities." "The Coop and its employees are an outside group; we are not taking sides [in the unionization issue] because we do not intend to let either side use [the Student Center]," commented Byers.

A date for the NLRB hearing has not been set, according to Byers.

Mark Govoni of Local 1445, who was arrested during the February 20 arrest, claims that "the lobby is for Coop employees use," and that "the arrest was discriminatory against Coop employees."

In a related incident last Friday, Tech Coop employees active in the unionization effort distributed copies of "The Scoop" to Coop workers early that morning. "The Scoop" is a pro-union newsletter.

According to Dotcie Magnus, one of the employees handing out the Scoop, "We were at the employees' entrance at the lower level (of the Student Center), and although managers said they would like us to leave, they did not make us leave." Magnus estimated that sixty to seventy bills were distributed: "I think all the employees got one, except for the managers," she said.

Govoni added that two campus Patricia were waiting for the workers at the lobby of the Coop that morning, but "after they made sure the handbillers were inside and not in the lobby, they said everything was OK."

Dale Archer of the Tech Coop noted that they will continue to handbill every week since "there seemed to be no major problems this time.

Asked to comment, Tech Coop manager Daniel Lunt said "We will have to be patient and see what happens on the 26th." Lunt was not at his office last Friday.

Bus and T services cut

By Jerri-Lynn Sonfield

Several extensive cuts have been proposed for mass transit service provided by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

A series of reductions became effective on February 1, primarily of certain Sunday routes on both bus and rapid transit lines. Additional cuts in service have been proposed, effective March 22, including elimination of additional Sunday bus routes, with significant reductions in the schedules of other lines. Additionally, curtailment of all Sunday service on the Red Line rapid transit route is planned.

In an open hearing held last Thursday evening in the Gardner Auditorium of the Massachusetts State House, Cambridge City Councilman David Sullivan '74 acknowledged the possibility that some of the cuts may be justified, but criticized the Advisory Board of the MBTA, which recommended the service cutbacks.

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