College bookstores sued for booklists; Coop is unaffected

By Diane ben-Aaron

While public college bookstores in California and New Hampshire have been accused of violating anti-monopoly laws for refusing to release the booklists for college courses to local private bookstores, and have been subsequently compelled to release the lists, the Harvard Cooperative Society has so far escaped such charges.

“If there is such an ordinance [in Cambridge], I would be surprised to hear of it,” said Birge Albright, president of the Coop’s book director, Dan Argeros. Albright, who is interested in [the market] can certainly have them,” Argeros said. The Coop, like most college bookstores, loses money on textbook sales, he noted. “We do sell the books for any more or any less than the publisher’s list price,” Argeros said. Although publishers often give bookstore discounts on textbooks, the store overhead is about 23 percent of the cost of the books, preventing the store from making a profit and passing the discount on to students.

“You have to operate the whole store on that 20 percent margin,” DeLellis explained.

According to Janmes M. Parish, general manager of the Harvard Cooperative Society, textbook sales are “an unprofitable monopoly and anyone who is interested in [the market] can certainly have them,” Argeros said. Although publishers often give bookstore discounts on textbooks, the store overhead is about 23 percent of the cost of the books, preventing the store from making a profit and passing the discount on to students.

Reasons for taking extra time to complete graduation requirements include "light loads, time away, and extra courses," he said. Ninth-term seniors must return their housing confirmation cards as soon as possible for the Dean’s Office to accurately assess the overall housing situation, Sherwood said.

New House III, East Campus first west floor become coed

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Changes, Sherwood explained. The dormitory sends the proposal to the Dean’s Office for final approval after obtaining the housemaster’s approval. Undergraduates enrolled in a ninth term may not be able to obtain housing, due to anticipated overcrowding in the fall, Sherwood said. MIT guarantees undergraduates housing for eight terms. Although the number of students graduating in fewer than four years has increased, the number of students spending an extra term at MIT has also increased, Sherwood noted. He expects “30 to 40 requests for ninth-term housing.”

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