MIT has harassment forum

(Continued from page 2) vulnerable to the teacher who wishes to exploit it. Many harassed people feel as though they have no power, Rowe said. "Real retaliation is rare, but nearly everybody fears it," she said. Those who feel that they are harassed should realize that there is much more power at their disposal, she explained. The harassed should not worry about be afraid of harassment, since each case is handled confidentially and prosecuted only in the extent that the complainant desires. "Nobody who doesn't have a need to know will know," she said.

The Institute will do its best to make up for the losses of time and work suffered by a victim who goes through the prosecution process, such as providing a new advisor or new funding if it is apparent that previous funding was removed as a form of retaliation, the panelists said. Prosecution is not the only avenue, the panelists explained. Often a simple self-assertion made to the offender to alert him or her to the problem is all that is necessary, they said. Many times a victim will wait only a change of advisor or pressure, just to get out of the situation, the panelists said. If these fail, a letter written to the offender formally explaining the student's problem can clear the situation up and give future investigations great leverage, the panelists said. The panelists also explained that any one of them would help a student write such a letter.

Many people have misunderstandings about sexual harassment, the panelists explained. "People are under the misconception that harassment must be repetitive [in order to be called harassment]," said Robert Sherwood, associate dean for students. The panelists said that harassment must be repetitive in order to be called harassment. "It's not just the attitude," said Jackie Simonis, assistant dean for student affairs; Anne Glavin, lieutenant of the MIT Campus Police; Peter Jenney, associate psychiatrist in chief of the MIT Medical Department; and Joyce Gibson, director of the Office of Minority Education.

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