Lobby 7 sleep-in supports homeless

Burke said from page 12 that MIT is a plaintiffs against MIT with the Cambridge Rent Control Board. So for sleep-ins, the participants donated food and supplies to Tent City while supporters circulated the phone number of City Hall by the names of city council members. Cavell assumed the presence that their phone calls would make a difference.

No one from MIT has been willing to negotiate with the homeless, according to several protesters.

"We're not asking for anything outrageous... just to sit down and talk," said Stuart Gurney, one of the protesters.

Sleep-in not approved by MIT

The sleep-in had not been approved by the Lobby 7 coordinator or by anyone else at MIT, according to Ronald W. Francis, one of the protesters. Francis said it was "inauthentic" and that the coordinator, and had been told that no activity was allowed after 10 p.m. But the protesters chose to disregard this warning, Francis said.

The protesters had been granted permission earlier in the week to use the Lobby from 8 a.m. Sunday night, according to Steven M. Burke, who is responsible for coordinating events in Lobby 7. But the organizers did not give any indication that they planned to stay the night, Burke said.

"I found out about it by reading it in [The Tech]," Milne said. Had the organizers given MIT advanced notice of the sleep-in, they probably would not have received permission, he said.

"That's not what we lobby for," Burke said of the protest. Lobby 7 is meant to be used for short events — concerts, speeches — not for sleeping overnight, he said.

MIT was unable to take any action since the short notice received, Milne said. He could not speculate on what action MIT might have taken had it learned of the protest earlier.

Protesters slept in Lobby 7 Sunday night in support of the homeless’s "Tent City" on MIT property.

David M. Watson/The Tech.