Colloquium focuses on crisis in science education

By Neel J. Ross

The committee proposes to define sexual harassment as "any conduct, on or off campus, relating to the gender or sexual identity of any individual or group, which has the intent or effect of unreasonably interfering with the education or work performance of a member or members of the MIT community by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment." The committee seeks to implement a provision for anonymous complaint resolutions, specific guidelines for a formal grievance process, and recommendations to use our reports to assess the gender or sexual identity of those involved in sexual harassment cases.

The committee's recommendations are based on the findings of several studies, including a study by the American Psychological Association which found that "women and girls are more likely to experience sexual harassment in academic settings than men and boys.

The committee's recommendations include:

1. The development of a policy that defines sexual harassment and establishes a procedure for reporting and investigating complaints.
2. The establishment of a grievance process that allows for anonymous complaints.
3. The provision of training for faculty and staff on sexual harassment.
4. The establishment of a support network for survivors of sexual harassment.
5. The implementation of a policy that prohibits retaliation against individuals who report sexual harassment.

In conclusion, the committee believes that sexual harassment is a serious problem that must be addressed by the MIT community. We encourage all members of the community to take action to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.

By Irene C. Kao

A detailed definition of sexual harassment, an annual compilation of statistics, and a training advocacy staff to handle cases and direct education of the MIT community are among the recommendations of a policy which the committee on Sexual Harassment will propose to the Academic Council in late October.

The committee revealed an online survey last Friday at the MIT Forum on Campus Sexual Harassment, which featured Karen Serene, director of the Project on the Status and Education of Women of the Association of American Colleges.

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By Seth Gordon

Last summer, a number of MIT students paraded the Institute's Computing Office offering a survey to all who passed. It asked, in part, "What would it take to get you to come to a practical Bible discussion?" It was sponsored by a new student group on Sensu-al Harassment which was formed last year.

The Boston Church of Christ is one of the most controversial religious groups in the Boston area. They are known for their strict interpretation of the Bible, using themselves completely to Jesus' will, and building the "King-dom of God." Their critics say that they do not accept the Bible's word, using guilt and peer pressure to maintain a spiritual pressure state.

There are over 10,000 "Churches of Christ" scattered throughout the country; most of those are independent of the BCC, and some have even repudiated its principles. The BCC is a part of the Congregational Church, a part of the United Church of Christ-Congregation-ist.

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Analysis

The BCC's disciples have been accused of not always being upfront about who they are and what they believe in. For in- stance, the CSA's self-description below is disgraceful. BCC disc- ciple Bruce Lewis '50, who wrote that survey, concedes that everyone in the CSA is a disciple of the BCC, although followers of other religious groups are free to join.

In the past, disciples at MIT have been less open. They have been asking me to go to Bible Talks since the spring of 1988. I have received several flyers and brochures advertising the talks, but it was not until May 1989, when I went to my first BCC service, that they revealed the true nature of what I was experiencing.

Robert Watts Thornburg, Dean of the Chapel at Boston University, who was present at the talk, summarized it best when he said, "I am not a Christian, but Jesus Christ is the true God of all people, and I am willing to listen to what the Bible has to say about Christian life and the Bible."

Bible Talks

In "Bible Talks," the BCC introduces non-members to its doctr- ines. Byron Stewart '89, the BCC's "House Church Leader" at MIT, explained that the talks are designed to meet the needs of those interested in discussing "the Bible, Christian life, and the role of the church in our society."

President George Bush

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Tony Hau/The Tech

F. James Rutherford (left), Sandra Spooner (center), and Paul E. Gray '54 were the speakers at yesterday's Science Smarts colloquium.