Pro-Life AWS discuss insurance refund policy

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alcohol. Over 22 percent of the respondents "said that they had been on the receiving end of an unwelcomed sexual proposition by somebody who was inebriat- ed," he said.

"I have no desire at all to end undergraduate drinking on this cam- pus. . . . I do, though, have the desire to have people respond respon- sibly to the issue of alcohol. And I don't think we do this at all on this campus," Towsley added.

Abortion rebate debated, discussed

The discussion of abortion poli- cy was followed by two speeches on the subject of a medical in- surance rebate for students who oppose abortion. Students from MIT Pro-Life had asked that the Medical Department refund the portion of their Student Health Insurance plan which is used for abortion counseling. The Medical Department refused their request, saying that they feared this would create a precedent for other special-interest groups.

In response, members of Pro- Life asked that the UA sponsor a binding referendum that would poll students on this issue. Michelle L. Bush '91, repre- senting the Association for Wom- en Students, opposed the propos- al. "We feel that getting abortion insurance refunds would be inappropriate policy, and an in- appropriate question for a UA referendum."

"It's kind of like a gamble," she said. "You give this money to this funding pool, and you hope you won't need it. But it's there in case you, or anyone else, has to draw on that funding later on for something that you happen to need."

She contrasted this with a "fee-for-service" system, in which the participants pay only for those ei- elements that they think they will need.

Bush warned that "if a referen- dum is to be held, it cannot be specific to abortion, but must ask whether students should get a re- fund for anything that they are morally opposed to. Once you grant that, you have to consider the ramifications."

The Pro-Life representative, Margaret F. Keady '91, disagreed. "We're not asking for this refund on the grounds that our members will never use this service. We object to the notion of anyone aborting their unborn child, and don't want to support it in any way," she said.

Keady added, "There are prob- ably plenty of other procedures covered by MIT insurance that I could personally find objection- able, in some way or another. However, I seriously doubt that I could find any other procedure that raises the question of direct killing."

"This is, after all, a pluralistic society, and people have a right to do what they will, provided they don't hurt anyone else in the process. But therein lies the prob- lem — in the eyes of many peo- ple, abortion does hurt someone else in the process. I don't think you can name any other medical procedure that raises this same ethical dilemma."

She concluded by saying that "this policy has been successfully instituted at other schools, and their medical care systems are still running."

The council also elected four new members to the UA Execu- tive Committee. They are: An- drew E. Bloch '91, Denise A. Purdie '92, Jan Lee '94 and Rowhie Sakhuja '94.

The UAC also quickly dis- cussed a resolution that the facul- ty had passed the day before, dealing with the issue of gay men and lesbians serving in the Re- serve Officers' Training Corp. However, the council did not have time to discuss or act on the measure.

The first hour of the two-and- a-half-hour meeting was spent asking each of the 60 UAC mem- bers to describe his or her great- est "pet peeve" at MIT. Answers included the emphasis of research over teaching, changes in the aca- demic calendar, problems with dining services, and the difficulty of finding bathrooms.

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