Ballot Box Thieves to Perform Community Service

By Reuven M. Lerner

Four students implicated in the March 13 theft of an Undergraduate Association ballot box from Lobby 7 will have to perform 25 hours of community service. They were charged with the theft of a ballot box from Lobby 7.

None of the four students charged with the theft - Ross A. Lippert '93, Valerie J. Ohm '93, Ralph A. Santos '92, and Peter S. Yesley '92 - attended the hearing. Lippert and Santos said they did not participate because it was not open to the public, while Yesley said he told the Dean's Office on Friday morning that he would not attend because his parents were visiting.

Lippert said that Ohm "opted out of it just because she was leaving" for the summer.

"They were not supposed to make it public," added Tewhey. "I was not real happy about it."

Rajnish A. Chitaley '95, who represented the UA before the Dean's Office, would not comment on the hearings or the punishments.

Wanted to defend themselves

Both Lippert and Yesley were upset by the fact that the hearing was held in closed session. "If I couldn't defend myself in a public setting - as I had been condemned before - then I would not contest the charges," Lippert said. "The same result would happen either way."

Nevertheless, Lippert said that he was "not unsatisfied" with his punishment. "I'm glad it was as lenient as it was," he said, especially considering "the Institute disregarded our rights to defend ourselves."

Residents were awakened in the early morning hours by a rumbling sound as a section of Westgate's overhang crashed to the ground. No injuries were reported.