Food Trucks Lose License to Sell on Ames Street

The Department of Transportation, Windham, MA, 01226-9108

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New Administration May End ROTC's Ban on Gays

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in handicapped spaces and ramps, and were "generally just parking in illegal spots," Scali said.

A truck may conduct business as long as it wants while parked in a legal parking spot, such as one in front of a parking meter, provided that the owner pays the meter, Scali explained.

But John T. McNeill, assistant director of MIT food services, suggested that if a truck moved from a spot, came back, and the spot was still available, the owner could park the vehicle again and start selling again for another 10 minutes.

"There's a fast 10 minutes and a slow 10 minutes," said Moses Katz, who runs the Falafel King truck on Ames Street, referring to the tax enforcement of the 10-minute restriction. Katz feels that if the trucks pose such a threat, the city would enforce its regulations more seriously. Disputes between the trucks began last July, when the city government moved Andy's Place to Ames Street. The falafel truck behind Building 66 viewed this as a threat to its business, and the owners quickly obtained a permit to operate a second Falafel King truck on Ames Street in an effort to remain competitive with Andy's Place.

The two trucks began arguing about parking space allocation and permitted parking times. Both parties submitted several complaints to the City Council, and by December, the Department of Public Works simply decided to revoke all of the vendors' licenses to obstruct, Scali said.

"You give [permits] to all, or you give to none," he added.

Katz seemed to blame Andy's Place employee Richard W. Hutchins for his problems. "Everything was OK until [Andy's] started to complain. The less noise we make, the less threat we present," Katz said.

Neither Hutchins nor Katz said he wants to fight the city on this issue. But both men would like to try to stay at Ames Street, or at least on campus.

"There is enough business for three trucks" not to have to fight among one another," Katz said.

The Poppy Goose truck, which is run by MIT alumni as a non-profit organization that helps international refugee families, has remained on the sidelines for much of the dispute.

Choe Vo '83, a student volunteer in the business, said he was aware when he applied that the city could revoke the permit with short notice.

"We don't mind if it comes down in (moving) every 15 minutes," Vo said. "That would be fair to us as long as it applies to every one." MIT community shows strong support "I think they need a spot for these people. They do a good job," said Director of the Spectrometry Laboratory James A. Simms, who visits Andy's Place three or four times a week.

"I think that the trucks are an important resource for students," Scali said.

Charles R. Wissowt G. The dining halls are not competitive in quality or price, he added. "I'm very much in favor of the trucks staying," said William G. Gardner, a frequent customer.

New Administration May End ROTC's Ban on Gays

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Clinton's promise to lift the ban. Buttker said he was forced to leave the ROTC program at MIT three years ago, when he informed his Navy ROTC commander that he was gay. Buttker said that he supports Clinton's actions and plans thus far. "I like the approach he's taking now—phasing in change so that there won't be any major negative response in Congress," he said. Buttker added that it was important for Clinton to continue taking steps to "educate the military so that some military leaders do not react.

"I am trying to see what I can do to further this," Buttker said. "Overall I am pleased.

Michael J. Williams '94, a midshipman in the Navy ROTC, said that he thought the lifting of the ban "would make the job of an officer more difficult, in trying to lead people who are in sold agreement with the ban.

Emphasizing that his words represent his personal opinion, and not that of the Navy, Williams said, "Though I don't agree with that kind of lifestyle at this point, I think I would be able to work alongside anybody. However, on a ship, when you're not simply working together but living together, I don't know how comfortable I would feel. I think I could deal with it, but then again I haven't had much real experience on a ship."

Military resistant to change In a memo leaked to the press last week, Aspin informed Clinton that both Congress, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and most military commanders do not want ban on gays in the military lifted.

Aspin also noted that the ban eventually will be deemed unconstitutional by the courts. Aspin said that military leaders have come to acceptance of gays into the military from both the executive and the judicial branches "without having a chance to control it at all." Thus they may be more willing to consider certain terms for the reversal of the ban that they may have rejected before, The Boston Globe reported.

Aspin emphasized that compromise will be needed for either side to reap any benefits, during an interview on CBS's "Face the Nation." Gay rights groups, knowing that Congress could immediately overturn any sweeping executive order Clinton might issue, are feeling pressure to minimize their demands so that Congress might not reject outright any changes that Clinton proposes.

Aspin was optimistic about how the pressure to compromise will help shape the policies homosexuals in the military. "I think that the pressures on both sides come to an agreement... I really do... I think we can work something out," Aspin said last Sunday on "Face the Nation." Aspin said that the working plan for the lifting of the ban would be for "six months or so" and see whether we can do it.

Buttker, now a medical school in Washington, D.C., said he was "trying to see what I can do to help expedite the lifting of that ban," the contacting congressmen and senators, urging those who find strongly about the issue to do likewise.

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