Bumps Reduce Speed on Amherst

By Daniel C. Stevenson

New and returning students traversing Amherst Alley will notice four new speed bumps, courtesy of the Campus Police Department.

"The reason for the speed bumps was very simple — student complaints," said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin. Officers' observations also influenced the decision to install the bumps, Glavin said.

They are marked with double-sided caution signs, located near the Westgate Store, New House, HouseGregor House, and the DuPont Tennis Courts.

"A speed bump is designed to get you to reduce your speed sharply," Glavin said. The bumps "essentially do work," Glavin said. "They're used on many other campuses just for that reason." Because of the high concentration of dormitories and living groups along the alley and the number of children at Westgate, Glavin said the problem "boils down to one issue — it's a personal safety factor.

"There were speed bumps on Amherst Alley several years ago," Glavin said, "but they were taken out primarily because they were too high.

"We're looking for fewer freshmen than the other sororities," said SIP Rush chair Aliza E. Mezrich '95. "SIP, MIT's fifth and newest sorority, had a pledge class of five last year compared to around 30 for the four other sororities.

Eye-catching skits Rush Coastleres led the sorority tours following the conversation, Jordan said. All the rush rooms are located in the Student Center, with two (AXO and SK) on the fourth floor, SIP, Alpha Xi, and KAT are in rooms on the third floor.

During the tours, the sororities typically "put on a skit, then talk to [them] the rushers] for a few minutes," Wainwright said. The skits AXO performs are designed to be "something eye-catching which will bring the girls back" to the open houses after the tours, Callaghan said.

Following the tours, women could return to any of the rooms during Open House I on Friday night, and Open House II mid-Saturday. Jordan said.

Open Houses I and II are the only two non-invited parties, Wainwright said. Rushers are encouraged to spend as long as they want in each sorority during the allotted times, Wainwright said. Following the open houses, freshwomen can spend only a limited time with the sororities outside of the rush room, and only by invitation, Wainwright said.

These events, also called infoformals, occur Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon. The informals typically involve trips around Boston or tours of the sororities.

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