GAMIT Display Case Vandalized

Stacey E. Bleu

The Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transsexuals, and Friends at MIT (GAMIT) display case in the Infinite Corridor was vandalized on Sept. 4 at about 1 p.m., said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glaivis.

"Someone, or some people, sprayed pink foam over various posters, the words 'We're Here! We're Queer!,' and images of various couples kissing in the GAMIT display case," said Celeste D. Winant '95. Winant immediately filed a report with Campus Police after seeing the vandalized display.

"Even though MIT cannot prevent [the perpetrators] from acting hatefully and stupidly, their actions will not be tolerated by the queer community or by any other sensitive person for that matter," Winant said.

GAMIT Political Coordinator Joaquim S. Terrones '97 said that GAMIT is planning several activities in response to the recent vandalism and other incidents. GAMIT is planning a poster and flyer campaign to increase awareness of homophobia at MIT, he said.

"In addition, "We're Invited Wan- ran J. Blumenfeld [author of Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price] to speak at MIT on homophobia," Terrones said. Blumenfeld is also the founder and first director of the National Gay Student Center.

Blumenfeld visited MIT last March for a forum on homophobia, after Lambda Chi Alpha members vandalized the sidewalk outside the house of Tau Epsilon Phi. The LCA members spray painted the words: "We're Queer!," and images of various couples kissing in the GAMIT display case. The vandalism took effect on July 1, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program began accepting its first regular-semester proposals until Sept. 16 in order to ask for funding from the UROP Office.

Partial support not available

In a change from last year, UROP will not provide partial support for students who are also paid by professors. Students must either be supported entirely by UROP funds or entirely by sponsored research. For the first time, students tak- ing UROP courses can also receive one unit of non-degree credit. Students must complete a UROP proposal and faculty supervisors must approve the credit.

McGavern expects the number of for-credit UROPs will increase instead of $2,174. The new rate "makes a tremen- dous difference," McGaverm said. "I'm optimistic that faculty really care deeply about UROP and will find that paying a student $1,500 instead of $950 is not that much of a hardship."

Students can turn in UROP pro- posals until Sept. 16 in order to ask for funding from the UROP Office.

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Smoking Policy Revised

Resolution prompts smoking ban in dining areas

By Sarah Y. Keightley

Since the new smoking policy took effect on July 1, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program began accepting its first regular-semester proposals until Sept. 16 in order to ask for funding from the UROP Office.

Insider Staff Writer

In compliance with a non-bind- ing Cambridge City Council resolu- tion written in May, the administra- tion has extended MIT's non-smoking policy to campus din- ing areas effective Sept. 1.

The smoking policy, which has been in place since March 1987, continues to prohibit smoking in all academic and service buildings, except in dormitories, said Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56.

Previously, this policy also allowed designated smoking sections in eating areas, including Walker, Lobdell Court, and Net- works, Dickson said. Under the newly revised smoking policy, these areas are eliminated, he said. How- ever, dormitories are still allowed to have their own policies regarding smoking, Dickson said.

"Any food service operation used by the community is affected by the revised policy, except those in the residence houses," said Direc-