Old Accusations Hurt Dialogue

Let's not try to ignore it. There have been and still are problems between Gays, Lesbians, and the straight community, and Friends at MIT (GAMIT) and fraternity and sorority organizations ["GAMIT, IFC Strive for Communication," Oct. 7].

However, putting up signs in the Infinite Corridor accusing several fraternities of having homophbic acts committed 10 to 15 years ago is not helping the situation.

I agree completely that these acts are not to be tolerated, but we are talking here about people who have been at MIT for a few years. I do not think it is fair to blame today's brothers and pledges and gotychrons for what previous members of their fraternity have done in the past.

Now don't get me wrong, communication between the Inter fraternity Council and GAMIT definitely needs to be improved, and homophbic acts should not be tolerated. However, these accusations are definitely not the way to help a dialogue, and I underscored bad reputation to the fraternity mentioned on the posters.

Benjamin Adiga A

Bulletin Board Offensive to Turkish Cypriots

There is a board on the Infinite Corridor walls which tells us about the too-copious history of Cypriots, which is a beautiful island floating on salty Mediterranean water and is at the hottest spot on the globe. As that tiny little island there are two ethnic identities with different languages, religions, beliefs, stories, habits, dreams, and nightmares despite a common history of almost 500 years. One dream is the other's nightmare. It is the precision of this all.

The "artist" who prepared that irrelevant, despicable "rodent." It can be hard to forget that, to a certain quarter of the MIT community, the Student Center is more than just a place of business in the wild rice. According to one account ["Rat Was a Surprise," Sept. 30], several students thought, "Hey look — a rat!" at which point Lobdell employees took up arms and joined the growing lynch mob. The rat was chased away, and the rice was discarded, having been "soiled" by contact with the nadex "rat.

Two factors of the "Lobdell Incident" suit student community. First, rats have historically not tolerated. Second, students shouted "anti-rat bias"

Since the students and rats have lived separately for so long, one might expect them to feel uncomfortable when placed together suddenly in a social setting. But the outright rejection of the rat population demonstrates once and for all the inferiority and discriminatory treatment given to rats on campus.

Staff, second, after the signing, a pack of administration bigwigs (none of whom had even been present at the incident) tuned up to announce that, in fact, no rats reside in Lobdell. Campus Activities Complex Director Philip J. Walsh, KALF General Manager Rob McNaboy, and even the Director of the Safety Office John M. Fresina agreed that no rats reside in the Student Center ("[Students See In Lobdell Court," Oct. 7] Walsh, however, stated that "we do not" since when do living creatures "occur"? And why did so many people rush to declare Lobdell a pest-ridden and proud rat population non-existent, instead crudely labeling the sighting a "mouse problem)?

There could be only one reason why the Student Center's official was so quick to deny the existence of the MIT rat community; They were scared stiff that, should rats be given even a hint of equal rights and equal treatment, the MIT would soon find itself merged in another tortured "dialogue" concerning its treatment of historically oppressed minorities.

Incident Underscores MIT's Anti-Rat Bias

For most students, the Stratton Student Center conjures up images of Athenian radicals, LaVerde's, pricey food, or the Undergraduate Association. Many on campus are prone to forget that, to a certain quarter of the MIT community, the Student Center is more than just a place of business in the wild rice. According to one account ["Rat Was a Surprise," Sept. 30], several students thought, "Hey look — a rat!" at which point Lobdell employees took up arms and joined the growing lynch mob. The rat was chased away, and the rice was discarded, having been "soiled" by contact with the nadex "rat.

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