Metcalf, TLGBC Discuss Homophobia

by DAVID SPIELMANN

Following incidents of harassment of homosexual residents in Metcalf brought to the attention of the Dean of Students Office and a disciplinary panel, the Tufts Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community held a panel at the dorm to discuss homophobia and homosexuality.

Six members of the TLGBC, Dean of Students Bobbie Knable and about 100 other students, approximately 90 percent of the Metcalf residents, spent two hours at the dorm meeting, which was made mandatory by a disciplinary panel, discussing general questions on homosexuality and homophobia.

Although some Metcalf residents were angered about being forced to attend the meeting that they felt was punishment for a specific incident of homophobic harassment, many of the residents, the TLGBC panel and Knable termed the event a success.

In October, a lesbian student living in Metcalf reported finding homophobic graffiti she believed was directed at her. The student later submitted a complaint and two students were brought before a disciplinary panel during the past exam reading period.

Although the two defendants were never proven to have participated in that specific incident, the panel established from its investigation that other incidents of homophobic harassment had occurred.

Knable emphasized that the meeting was not to address specific incidents in Metcalf, but to address the wider issue of homophobia. She said that the residents “will learn from this presentation something about what it is to be an object of homophobia.”

In October, a lesbian student living in Metcalf reported finding homophobic graffiti she believed was directed at her. The student later submitted a complaint and two students were brought before a disciplinary panel during the past exam reading period.

Although the two defendants were never proven to have participated in that specific incident, the panel established from its investigation that other incidents of homophobic harassment had occurred.

Knable emphasized that the meeting was not to address specific incidents in Metcalf, but to address the wider issue of homophobia. She said that the residents “will learn from this presentation something about what it is to be an object of homophobia.”

In October, a lesbian student living in Metcalf reported finding homophobic graffiti she believed was directed at her. The student later submitted a complaint and two students were brought before a disciplinary panel during the past exam reading period.

Although the two defendants were never proven to have participated in that specific incident, the panel established from its investigation that other incidents of homophobic harassment had occurred.

Knable emphasized that the meeting was not to address specific incidents in Metcalf, but to address the wider issue of homophobia. She said that the residents “will learn from this presentation something about what it is to be an object of homophobia.”