

Re: Bigots Launch New Year's Offensive In Powelton
To The Editor:

During the first hours of the year 2000, an enraged Drexel student, resident of 3218 Winter St., in Powelton Village, smashed many beer bottles in the passageway between his house and 3220 Winter, broke two branches off the ornamental cherry tree on the street in front of his house, and screamed threats and obscenities, including, "n____rs get shot in their own cribs!"

Of course African Americans live on the block, though none of the white people on the block appreciated the slurs and obscenities either. The screaming was loud enough to wake up neighbors down the block.

At 1:30 in the morning of January 10, 2000, three drunk white college-age

males shouted, "Homo!" and "Faggot" repeatedly as they walked along Winter Street, where last October a group of Drexel students (including members of the wrestling team) had chanted, "Ho-mo! Ho-mo!" ten or twelve times.

A few doors away, the three drunks smashed the picture tube of a television set lying on the sidewalk in front of 3218 Winter. A resident chased them down and got close enough to be able to identify them, but Drexel officials have yet to provide the resident with a copy of last year's yearbook so he can identify the drunks.

So far this winter, at least three rainbow flags in Powelton have been stolen. One was ripped down, leaving a metal ring and the corner of the flag still nailed

continued on page 16

Bigots launch offensive

continued from page 5

to the rafter where the flag was flying. Powelton residents, including Drexel students, are flying more than forty rainbow flags in response to repeated acts of vandalism and harassment by bigoted college-age white males, almost certainly all Drexel students.

Last month Drexel's administration closed the judicial process concerned with October's "Ho-mo! Ho-mo!" incident. Candace Stayton, Assistant Dean of Students, explained, "We found no evidence of criminal behavior. Though the incident is regrettable, there is nothing we can do."

To date Dr. Papadakis has declined to issue a public statement addressing acts of vandalism and harassment based on bigotry. He has declined to return phone calls from reporters representing the Philadelphia Inquirer, WPVI—Channel 6, the Philadelphia Weekly, the University City Review, the Philadelphia Gay News, and Au Courant Newsmagazine. He has not publicly responded to letters from the Powelton Village Civic Association, the Tabernacle United Church (West Philadelphia), and University City Pride.

Most strikingly, Dr. Papadakis asked the Drexel student organization, the Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA), for a letter stating its concerns. SAGA sent their letter in November, but Dr. Papadakis has not even acknowledged receiving their letter.

*Giovanni's Room
Center City*