

11-12-99

# Letters to the Editor

## Homophobia has no place at Drexel

Editor:

We are faculty, staff and administrators of the Drexel English Language Center who are extremely concerned about the homophobic harassment, apparently by Drexel students, that has been happening in Powelton Village ("Intolerance thrives, even in Powelton Village", The Triangle, Oct. 8, p. 18).

The most recent incidents occurred on Winter Street, which is behind our building, on Oct. 29 and 30.

There is a pattern of drunk college-age males shouting homophobic insults and vandal-

izing property where rainbow flags, representing equality for people of all sexual orientations, are displayed. While it is not certain that these are Drexel students, all members of the Drexel community are nonetheless affected.

As educators who work with a diverse international population, we find this climate of intolerance unacceptable.

We value cultural diversity, and the safety of all of our students is a priority for us.

We ask President Papadakis to take leadership in addressing homophobia at Drexel University. We would like him to create a task force of Drexel students, administrators, staff and faculty, as well as Powelton resi-

dents. Included should be representatives of his office, the Straight and Gay Alliance, the Greek Director, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Powelton Village Civic Association. The task force should draft a campus-wide plan to address excessive drinking, vandalism and homophobic harassment, and to improve student/resident relations.

We also urge him to set a tone of acceptance by making a statement in The Triangle that abusive treatment of any member of the Powelton community by Drexel students will not be tolerated.

**Karen Snelbecker  
Joanna Labov  
and 23 others**