

Declaration investigation requested

By MARINA SARRIS

A Student Council member asked Council Tuesday to investigate The Declaration for alleged discrimination against gays.

Law School Rep. Bob Schwartz said The Declaration has been refusing to publish notices of the Gay Student Union's (GSU) events on the back page calendar.

None of The Declaration's managing board members could be reached for comment yesterday.

Schwartz said he personally brought a two-page press release of the GSU's events during Gay-Lesbian Celebration Week "into the hands of a responsible staff member who told me that the notice would be printed on the calendar."

The notices never appeared.

Leslie Eliason, vice president for projects and services, said a Declaration staff member told her the calendar "page had been laid out with the GSU's ads on it when one managing board member went down there and ripped them out."

Former Declaration graphic artist Tom Seidman said while he knew the GSU's notices had been ripped out, he would not divulge the names of witnesses "to protect their jobs."

Seidman said he resigned from The Declaration last week after the managing board censored one of his graphics for the Decboy issue.

Schwartz requested that Council's Appropriations Committee look into

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the alleged discrimination and report on possible action.

Though Vice President for Appropriations Jim Dwyer was out of town Tuesday, Council President John Serpe promised Schwartz he would ask Dwyer to look into the matter when he returns.

Eliason, however, urged Council "to motivate the student body to reject

that attitude" rather than address the problem through the appropriations process.

Schwartz said he is "not in a position" to ask that Council withdraw The Declaration's recognition.

Withdrawal of recognition would make the group ineligible for Student Activity Fee funds and University office space.

Though Council cannot scrutinize a media group's editorial policy, Schwartz said, Council may have the power to investigate policies concerning the printing of notices in calendar and advertising space.

Media groups have "a contractual obligation to open up access to their pages of notices of recognized student groups," he explained.