

THE HOYA

Georgetown University's Newspaper of Record Since 1920

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Georgetown University

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007

VOL. 89, NO. 12, © 2007
www.thehoya.com



PETER TULLY/THE HOYA

Students participated in National Coming Out Week on Tuesday by sitting in Red Square with tape over their mouths. Members of GU Pride met with University President John J. DeGioia and other faculty and administrators later that day to discuss their demands in response to the assault of a gay student near campus last month.

Pride Demands Further Reforms

Following DeGioia Response, Students Request Continued Action

By CONNIE PARHAM
Hoya Staff Writer

Members of the campus community pushing to eliminate what they consider to be intolerance against LGBTQ students met with university administrators, including University President John J. DeGioia, this week, but have since continued to voice their demands, saying that they are not yet satisfied with DeGioia's response.

Numerous students and faculty members sent emails to DeGioia

beginning last week urging him to take part in an open meeting to discuss their demands. While DeGioia declined to take part in such a meeting, he and Vice President for Student Affairs Todd Olson met privately with four members of the GU Pride board on Tuesday morning and DeGioia sent a university-wide email later that day.

"There are no circumstances in which students, faculty and staff should walk in fear because of any aspect of their identity," he said in the email.

The email was sent less than two

weeks after a Georgetown sophomore was arrested for assaulting another student early on the morning of Sept. 9 in what is being considered a hate crime. Hundreds of students have since called for several reforms, including extended resources for the LGBTQ community, mandatory events to educate students about the LGBTQ community and a revised LGBTQ working group.

While Olson said that the meeting between DeGioia and the students on Tuesday — as well as two other meetings scheduled on the same day to

address the group's demands — was productive, the students present said that they were not yet satisfied by the university administration's response. They voiced their continued concerns yesterday when about 15 members of GU Pride gathered in Red Square and requested to give to DeGioia a petition outlining their demands, but were barred from entering Healy Hall by the university's Department of Public Safety.

The protest began as GU Pride

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DeGioia Defends Boycott Criticism

By LAURA BRIENZA
Hoya Staff Writer

Facing growing protest from a Law Center professor, University President John J. DeGioia has stood by his decision in recent weeks to criticize a proposed boycott of Israeli universities over the summer.

DeGioia's criticism, which he expressed in an advertisement appearing in the Aug. 8 edition of *The New York Times* that included signatures from hundreds of university presidents across the nation, was directed at the University and Colleges Union, a group which represents more than 120,000 post-secondary educators in the United Kingdom that called for the boycott of Israeli universities as part of a protest of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Louis Seidman, a professor at the Law Center, soon after wrote a letter to DeGioia protesting his signature of the advertisement, arguing that the protest could have benefited relations between Israel and Palestine. But DeGioia has since publicly defended his decision, arguing that intellectual boycotts are not appropriate.

The advertisement, which was sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and was spearheaded by Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, featured a statement made by Bollinger that called the proposed boycott an "intellectually shoddy and politically biased [attempt] to hijack the central mission of higher education." The advertisement read in large font: "Boycott Israeli Universities? Boycott Ours, Too!"

Seidman said that the advertisement promoted only the Israeli side of the conflict. As an American Jew, Seidman said that he considers the United States' "unquestionable support of Israel ... both morally unjustifiable" and detrimental in the international arena.

In an open letter to DeGioia that he has recently circulated at the Law Center, Seidman wrote, "My own view is that at this point in history, a boycott of major Israeli institutions might play a useful role in undermining disastrous Israeli policies."

Seidman said in an interview that DeGioia should not have signed the advertisement on behalf of Georgetown when it does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the entire community. He said that

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