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FIVE CENTS

Classified graduate theses and research are curtailed Two join radical conference

By Harvey Baker
(Ed. note: This article is based on an interview with Professor Irwin Sizer, Dean of the Graduate School. The interview was made at his request to clarify all the remarks that have been made recently about classified research at MIT and, in particular, classified theses done by graduate students.)

The role of classified research in an educational institute is a topic that has received increasing attention in recent years. The Institute's position is that it is serving the public interest by having classified research done by its graduate students.

MIT, according to Dean Irwin Sizer, is not an ivory tower institution and does not feel a need to isolate itself from the world; work done by its students under the sponsorship of the government can ultimately serve the nation.

What concerned Sizer more, however, was his own feeling that work on classified theses does not provide the best form of education that a student can receive. In fact, the Dean's opinion has been echoed by other faculty members to the point where Sizer could say that, "In general, we are strongly opposed to classified theses being done by a significant minority of our graduate students."

Stress on student

It appears, he continued, that the stress and strain on a student doing work he knows is classified and the additional lack of openness possible in such work do not really yield a good kind of education for a student. Accordingly, MIT has been and is continuing to reduce the number of classified theses that its students are doing. In addition, it is now extremely difficult for any student to obtain permission to do a classified thesis.

The administration will allow a student to do a classified thesis only if persuaded that the student is working on a problem of great importance to the national interest, and then only if there are sufficient faculty around to supervise his work. If a student desires to do such a thesis, he must first go to his department headquarters, and say that he wishes to work on a certain specified topic under a certain professor and must state his reason why. The department considers his request, and,

if it approves, sends a letter to the Dean of the Graduate School recommending that permission be granted.

The Dean examines the request and then consults with the Committee of Graduate School Policy. This committee consists of a representation of each of the twenty-three departments plus assorted other deans and administrators. If Dean Sizer and this group concur that the student should be allowed to do the thesis, only then may he proceed.

President's approval

Most significantly perhaps, is the fact that to get permission to have any classified research done on the campus in the first place, that is to give these graduate students a place and the materials with which to work, the approval of the president of the Institute or the provost is required.

Sizer then discussed whether the government, specifically the military, should be kept away from school projects. In regard to graduate theses, he

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Pro, con debated

March 4 views given

(Ed. note: in response to many requests, we are printing the following statements concerning March 4)

Union of Concerned Scientists Statement of Jan. 27, 1969:

Misuse of scientific and technical knowledge presents a major threat to the existence of mankind. Through its actions in Vietnam our government has shaken our confidence in its ability to make wise and humane decisions. There is also disquieting evidence of an intention to enlarge further our immense destructive capability.

The response of the scientific community to these developments has been hopelessly fragmented. There is a small group that helps to conceive these policies, and a handful of eminent men who have tried but largely failed to stem the tide from within the government. The concerned majority has been

By Jay Kunin
Professors Noam Chomsky and Louis Kampf were among several Thursday who identified themselves with the New University Conference, a national organization of radical "faculty, graduate students, independent intellectuals, and university employees."

Also present at a press conference at the Religious Counselor's building were Andrew Hawley of the Humanities Department; Mickey Morgan, a Harvard graduate student; John Legget, Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut; and Richard Savage, graduate student and SDS leader at UConn. Describing themselves as "co-belligerents" with the "Student Rebellion," the participants stated their support of the movements to create a "new university," which cannot be achieved without "intense conflict, turmoil, sacrifice, and pain."

Legget, who expects to be fired for his activities, spoke of the protests that have occurred at UConn. The SDS has demonstrated on the campus against recruiters from Dow, Olin-Matheson, Grumman, General Foods, General

on the sidelines and ineffective. We feel that it is no longer possible to remain uninvolved.

We therefore call on scientists and engineers at MIT, and throughout the country, to unite for concerted action and leadership: Action against dangers already unleashed and leadership towards a more responsible exploitation of scientific knowledge. With these ends in mind we propose:

1. To initiate a critical and continuing examination of governmental policy in areas where science and technology are of actual or potential significance.
2. To devise means for turning research application away from the present emphasis on military technology towards the solution of pressing environmental and social problems.

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Photo by Dave Simansky

Professors John Legget (U Conn), Noam Chomsky (MIT), Andrew Hawley, and Harvard graduate student Mickey Morgan answer questions at Thursday's press conference.

Motors, the CIA, and the Peace Corps, an "instrument of an essentially imperialist state." At one demonstration, 40 people, including six faculty members, were arrested.

Savage, who has been effectively expelled from the University and expects to enter the army next month, said that his form of activism was nothing like the "Spanish facism preferred by liberals." He described the Connecticut campus as a police state, and noted that though he can appeal his suspension, the appeals process is "as vague as a jellied egg."

Chomsky noted that Senator Ful-

bright has declared that the "university has betrayed the public trust." He suggested that the university should be a "free and critical institution which is truly neutral."

In a printed pamphlet, the New University Conference urges "our colleagues to organize for political struggle." The struggle should be based on these principles: 1) right of protest for all members of the university, 2) full citizenship for students in university government, 3) opposition of military and corporate intrusion on the campus, and 4) opposition of class biases of the university.

Wiesner to co-chair panel for Kennedy ABM probe

By Greg Bernhardt

Senator Edward Kennedy Wednesday named Provost Jerome B. Wiesner and Harvard Professor Abram Chayes to head a committee that will prepare a paper on the controversial anti-ballistic missile system.

Chayes and Wiesner will assemble and direct a group of experts on various phases of defense who will review the existing facts and literature on the subject, and from this prepare a position paper which Kennedy will present to the Senate.

Both Wiesner and Chayes have taken stands against the deployment of ABM systems, and, in particular, the Sentinel system. On Friday, Wiesner indicated to *The Tech* that he would be "very surprised" if the panel came to a decision other than opposition to the ABM system.

Wiesner, a close friend of the Kennedy family, said that he had been chosen as an "American expert on the subject." In recent weeks Wiesner has

been speaking to groups concerned about deployment of a Sentinel base outside Boston, in Reading, Mass. Chayes has also been active as chairman of the Northeast Committee Against ABM.

Wiesner said that he had just learned of his appointment earlier in the week. He indicated that he was unsure of who would serve on the panel and the details of its operation. He said that he expects the paper to be done in six weeks to two months.

In previous statements, Wiesner opposed the development of the ABM system on the grounds that it had never proved itself to be a technically feasible method of defense. On its effectiveness he has stated "I am convinced that a variety of techniques available to a nation planning an offensive system is great enough to keep the anti-ballistic missile system of the kind we are talking about totally off balance." He has also expressed fear of further arms escalation if the ABM is deployed.

Wellesley student authority grows to Academic Council

By Larry Klein

Wellesley College students are gaining a significant role in the policy-making structure of their college. Kris Olson and Jan Krigbaum, members of the newly-organized Wellesley Committee for Structural Revision of the College, and Hillary Rodham, president of college government at Wellesley have given *The Tech* some of the reasons.

Academic Council

As briefly reported in the last issue of *The Tech*, the immediate success Wellesley students have achieved is the approval of a proposal for the admit-

tance of twenty students to the school's Academic Council. Possessing wide powers, this previously faculty-administration-only body is responsible for dealing with all non-social matters that occur at Wellesley.

The passage of this student-sponsored proposal permits twenty students to attend all meetings of the Academic Council. These students are generally responsible to the student body, being representatives elected from the dormitories, officers of the Wellesley Senate, a representative from the Wellesley

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Disrupts business

Grease fire damages Lobdell

A grease fire in the kitchen of Lobdell Dining Room in the Student Center at 11:30 Saturday morning caused an undetermined amount of damage. There were no reported injuries.

The fire apparently began in a

"frialator," a piece of kitchen equipment used for frying French fries. The fire broke out while food was being prepared for the peak lunch period, and persons who were present reported that the problem could have been more severe had a greater number of people

been present. The dining area was evacuated and the entire room was inundated with smoke so dense that firemen needed gas masks. The general atmosphere was one of calm, with no panic.

In addition to an as-yet unknown degree of damage to equipment, a quantity of food was destroyed and the operation of Lobdell was disrupted. The dining room was in partial operation Saturday evening, and it is hoped that fully normal operations could resume this week, subject to approval of the Board of Health and other authorities.

Fire alarm procedure

Five fire trucks, including two ladder units, answered the fire alarm. In response to an inquiry, the MIT Safety Office reported that a new Institute fire alarm procedure has been worked out, including an agreement with the City of Cambridge. Instead of a charge for each fire truck sent in response to an alarm, the Institute pays only a flat fee each year for fire protection. All fire alarms now run directly to the safety office, instead of to the main switchboard as they once did.



Photo by Jon Borschow

Firemen investigate the origin of a grease fire in Lobdell Dining Room. Heavy smoke and disruption of operations were one result of the fire about noon Saturday.