Media report on campus surveillance

By Alex Makowski

Recent headlines have renewed interest in possible undercover campus surveillance by law enforcement agencies.


MIT contact

The Tech reached Assistant Dean Richard Sorensen for comment, explaining that while the Campus Patrol receives occasional requests from the local police to infiltrate "we know of no attempt" by outside agencies to conduct undercover operations on campus. "This has been part of the tradition," he added, "and it's part of our role to enroll agents as students."

"Our students are not nearly as well-researched as most MIT students," he said. "They're not nearly as well-educated. They're not nearly as well-inflected. They're about the same." The Tech asked if the campus patrol received requests from "professors on the prowl for illegal drugs. And MIT's tight organization has been suspicious of observers who showed up at rallies or meetings carrying a camera."

CFA bombing

"Fears of campus security problems are not falling once one stops following the bombing of Harvard's Center for International Affairs. At that time FBI agents were investigating threats against MIT as part of a nationwide attack on bombers."

The Times article observed that the FBI had almost unearled of five years of surveillance against a "human rights" institution on the American college scene. It is the product of a series of attempts to bomb, arson, stalk, demonstrate - and the widespread drug problem.

Helpless

"Apparently many college campus agents are unhappy about the surveillance but are helpless to control it. The spying may range from casual observation and photography at an open campus to surveillance as an ad

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be a reeducation of approximately 300 faculty members.

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