West Point CO tells story

By Norman Sandler

Lieutenant Louis Font was honorably discharged from the US Army in April of this year. He is a West Point graduate, and the first such graduate ever to be discharged from the Army as a conscientious objector. A 1968 graduate of the service academy, Font first applied for conscientious objector status in January of 1970 on the grounds of his opposition to the Vietnam War. At the time of his application, he was a graduate student at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, working on his master's degree. Following the submission of his application through Army channels, he was immediately sent to Fort Meade, Maryland, where the Army did their best to render him harmless, including supplying him with an office but nothing to do.

The first time the mistake the Army made while Font was stationed at Fort Meade, Font was assigned to be barracks inspector. He proceeded to inspect the 1964 vintage barracks and collect statements from civilian army officers on the conditions of the barracks. These he compiled into a 110-page report which he attempted to pass through proper channels. He finally courted to giving the report to the press, much to the embarrassment of the Army. As Font points out, "The slightest bit of truth on the printed page sends generals up the wall." Font relates that finally, much to the pleasure of the Army, which he says is trying to rid itself of dissenters, he was released with an honorable discharge earlier this year. His release came at a time when he had received charges filed against him to warrant a 23-year prison term, over a year after he first submitted his request to the Army. In a statement at a Senate hearing, General William Westmoreland attributed Font's change of attitude from the environment Font was exposed to while at Harvard..."

Dormitory Council at turning point

By Ken Voea

The role of the Dormitory Council in student affairs at MIT has been changing for the last several years. The Council, which is made up of the presidents of the seven MIT dormitories, has never played a very dynamic role in bringing about changes or instituting programs. Several years ago, its only major function was its involvement in freshmen orientation and rush week, where it attempted to serve as a counterbalancing force to the Inter-Fraternity Conference. When the Freshman Advisory Council began taking control of council-related issues, the Dorm Council was relegated to the role of a figurehead.

Mike Wilson, the president of the Dorm Council, expressed hopes that this year the Council would become more visible. It has begun to become more involved in interaction with the MIT administration. Early in October the Dorm Council met with Assistant Director of Housing and Dining Services Ken Browning, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Richard Soenen, and President Jerome Wiesner to discuss contingency plans for this year.

The council has formed a committee, made up of a few members of each of the living groups it represents, which will receive information about any decisions of the administration which in any way affect the dorms, relay the information, and give feedback. In the past, it was found that when different people went looking for information, they sometimes got different answers from people on the MIT staff. Now there should be more uniform and quicker dissemination of information to the students—"in theory at least." Traditionally the Dorm Council has served the administration as a sounding board and proved more useful to them than to students. Now it will be expanding its role and become more accurate in its function. The living group governments have always been the most effective of all student governments. Now perhaps the Dorm Council will maintain a direct line between student government and MIT government.

Should Science Survive Its Own Success?

Dr. Everett Mendelssohn, History of Science, Harvard University

Dr. Mendelssohn will approach the question through a history of the critiques of science and evaluate the critiques of today for their validity. There will be time for questions from the floor and some discussion.

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