Robberies spark anti-crime campaign

By Walter T. Middlebrook
and Roger White

Latest news releases concerning crime on campus have suddenly caused the MIT community to take a closer look at the matter. Although the Campus Patrol has been warning the community for some time, a recent crime spree reported in Tech Talk (April 19) has put the subject in the forefront.

In a period of two days last week, six members of the MIT community were victimized by armed robbers. Four of the incidents occurred on the MIT campus, one on the Harvard Bridge, and the sixth on Monument Drive between MIT and Harvard. In each case, the robber was armed with a knife.

In order to fight the present wave of robberies, Captain James Olivieri of the Campus Patrol reports, "we've completely altered the patrol pattern in an effort to spend more time in the high crime area at MIT."

According to Olivieri, 1970 was a good year for a thief. Students lost more than $5,000 worth of articles during that year. These articles included refrigerators, television sets, and other electronic equipment, typewriters, and books, and personal property, etc. In 1971, with the help of a Campus Patrol crackdown, $14,000 worth of personal property was lost by students. Losses to the Institute that year totaled $24,107. Of these losses, $5,149 of personal property was recovered, while $1,549 of the Institute property was recovered in 1971. Figures for 1970 were unavailable.

The crackdown by the Campus Patrol in 1971 resulted in arrests of 80 people, none of whom were MIT students. Most of these were charged with trespassing, larceny, breaking and entering, assault, and theft.

Olivieri points out that the number of arrests for crimes on MIT could possibly be higher, "due to records only cover those arrested by the Campus Patrol - the Cambridge and Boston Police forces have made some arrests in the past."

The main theft problem comes in off the MIT campus, states Olivieri. This is explained by Nora Rockman of the Planning Office, "Because of the openness of MIT, many people visit the campus but know no who, whether or not they belong in certain places. Visitors on the campus include salesmen, interested applicants, and regular visitors. The police advocates to MIT is about the same as the number of people belonging to the community, which is approximately 30,000.

George Petievich, Administrative Officer for Physical Plant, points out that there is an essential difference between stealing from individuals and from an establishment. The same types of offenders consider this to be quite a difference; they would steal from MIT, but not have any second thoughts, but from an individual they just would not do it.

"Vandalism costs MIT $40-50,000 per year or about 16 dollars per year for each student," remarks Petievich. This does not include the only acts of destruction such as breaking win-

dows, spray painting buildings, and flushing computer tape down toilets. One of the more spectacular acts of vandalism was done by someone on the MacGregor House cornerstone. Petievich diagnosed the causes of the crime problem as 1) MIT is an urban campus, 2) there is a conflict of academic freedom versus security, and 3) the absence of these freedoms creates massive problems. His alternative is that his office might be forced to tell people to work limited hours or accept fines.

On the other hand, Rothman feels that the crime problem is a community problem that should be faced by all those in the community. "There is no way for the Campus Patrol to cover all the areas of the Institute. Some people in the community take the responsibility to do some policing. Everybody is up tight about the war and is willing to march on the Common or in Washington. But no one had enough guts to ask some one to be a four part bulletin board. Petievich pointed out that repairing or restoring vandalism property is emergency work that must be done, "I would much rather use the money to keep people on the payroll providing services."

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By Walter Middlebrook

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Because of the gloomy outlook predicted for the job market this year, the Student Aid Office put a notice in Technology Review asking alumni and companies across the country for job leads. The

classified advertising

MIT Stamp and Coink Club: Students interested in forming a stamp and coin club please contact Adella at 8907 or Dave, 8260.

PERSONS of various occupations regarding N. American and Overseas Opportunities, up to $2,600.00 monthly. For complete information write to Bob RESEARCH, Box 1251, Six-A, Toronto, Ont. Envelope $5 to cover cost.

FOR SALE: Kenwood KR70 Brev $110 and two epq systems $70. Excellent condition, both $247.87.

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20% - 50% OFF ON ALL STEREO EQUIPMENT, Stereo Components, TV's for new, in factory sealed cartons, 3000 Guaranteed. All major brands available. Call Mike anytime, 791-7793.