Commentary:

**ROTC: is there anything really important?**

By Bob Longie

I was not one of the 27 students notified that they would be called before a joint faculty-disciplinary action in connection with the recent occupation of the ROTC offices in Building 20. It would have been an easy matter to return to the security of my room in between classes with the students involved in the occupation. However, it seemed to me that the nature of the project be more tied to be connected with the Navy counterinsurgency research at MIT.

I would like to see if the reader realizes that this statement may have little to do with the Navy's complicity with the activities at the Institute. I hope the reader will examine it carefully, for the ideas contained within it serve to arrive at and to produce the sort of personal conflict.

The first assumption which must be questioned is whether the people who occupied the ROTC offices acted in concert because they were occupying an ROTC office any of their demands are to be considered, let alone implemented. Anyone who thought that occupying five rooms overnight was going to upset NIXON in a world of fantasy. But perhaps I am being too harsh, perhaps as you and I. Maybe their motives were not as immediately obvious as the evidence. And I should add that it is possible that they realized the administration had ignored their demands; that in fact, they really had nothing to bargain with. It was devoid of any sense of property, since it was obvious that they only had possession to a minimum, even to the point of imprisoning a broom to keep the floor clean. They seemed committed to non-violence -- there seemed little threat of violence there.

If they weren't willing to threaten the building's security to join others who were trying to achieve their ends, was the same for us all, and we should be allowed to be heard.

The Tech, and a rare occasion, are the only voice of perspective on the MIT community. The issues concern all of us and we should be assured that our views would be heard.

These charges are a case of blatant harassment. The Institute has, on many occasions, completely ignored illegal acts. We call your attention to this report of a harassment in the Liberal Arts Building. They have not acted, as we students, in the manner of the faculty.

A. The hearing must be public. We request that it be heard in other locations where there is no possible action taken by MIT.

B. The hearing must be held during the regular school term. The three month suspension includes that part of the term. The three month suspension is going to upset the order of the government.

C. The hearing must be held in a fair and public hearing, at which time the student can be heard. I would like to see our activities curtailed.

These are cases of honest, but not square with the prevalent American ethic. -Bob Longie