Anti-war group asks 'Who MIT Serves'

By Lee Giguere

The Massachusetts Action Coordinating Committee, until now a small and often unappreciated anti-war research group on the MIT campus is "alive and well," according to one of its leaders.

A new group, not calling itself SACC but carrying on that group's objectives, has presented MIT with its alleged complicity with the military. The new group has been working this summer to compile data on who MIT serves and what kind of industries and research is being conducted.

The ultimate goal of their work, Watson said, is to publish, in either pamphlet or book form, a well-documented analysis of "Who MIT Serves." Watson believes that the answer to this question will be different from the administration's "who serves MIT" statements and that MIT serves many diverse constituencies.

He also agrees that "MIT does serve a large number of interests," Watson said. Just as MIT serves "an extraordinary concentration" of the areas of research in the defense area. The Department of Defense, he argued, is the primary beneficiary of basic research done at the Institute and depends on institutions like MIT for new weapons.

Watson added that the body of the defense field in the United States, Watson said, is "alive and well," emphasizing the anti-war, anti-war research group's efforts to document the fact.

The spirit of SACC, the Science Action Coordinating Committee, is "still very much alive," according to Associate Professor of Humanities William B. Watson.

The group, composed of students from several different departments including Biology, Physics and Humanities, will direct its efforts to try to find out to whom the science and technology at MIT is being produced, who MIT students serve and what kind of industries and research are undertaken at MIT.

Following his travels Ashe will return to his hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina where he will be offered a position as an Assistant Editor at the now defunct humor magazine Voodoo.

Ashe's most brilliant and best work seems to lead to high-technology solutions.

By Paul Schindler

MIT will begin receiving Center service from New England Institute Telecommunications' operator Mont Berlan is "grudgingly optimistic" that the conversion will work out well.

Beber stated that "the gross cutout of service will certainly take place on the twelfth, without major problems." He added that there will be bugs in the system at first, but that he is certain that they will be worked out and that the extensive training program undertaken at MIT will reduce problems with the system. Calling errors should also be reduced by the issuance of a new Centers directory, which is scheduled to take place by August 15.

Thus, while 864-6900 will continue to be answered, callers will be referred to 233-7800, the new MIT number, or 238-1000, the new Defense Laboratories number. All MIT extensions will be available for direct inward dialing, extension 7800 may be reached by calling 233-7800.

The Dormitory Telephone System will continue to operate independently of service offered by NET, with private phones in each dorm room, interconnected to the Center via a feline, to reach an extension from a dorm phone, dial 80 followed by the five-digit extension 3-7800. Unlike the extensions, the number of digits in dorm phone numbers will remain four, but a substantial section of telephones will be renumbered to facilitate service. These will be mainly in McCormick Hall.

It will still be possible to reach dormlines from extensions, by dialing 180 followed by the dormphone number, and from the main MIT number, either for dialing 233-1000 and asking for the dormphone number or by dialing 238-1000 and asking to be transferred.

In the dorms, the Dormitory system will offer a new service, beginning sometime this fall, in the form of a number by means of which dormphone users will be able to reach a NET toll operator directly. By dialing 6011, third number, collect and credit card calls may be placed directly from dormphones.

After the installation of the Center, it will still be possible to transfer calls, even though they have not gone through an operator. If a call is made from outside to a wrong extension, a single depression of the switchhook will signal an operator who will then come on-line to handle the transfer. The party initiating the transfer will hear a ringing tone, telling him that the transfer notification has been made.

One feature offered by Center may lead to problems. The call forwarding feature, on extensions equipped for the service, enables the user, by dialing 72 and a five-digit extension, to forward calls to another extension. Dialing 73 will cause the feature to stop functioning. Two problems appear likely.

The first is a technical and training problem. When the system was being planned, it was thought that a telephone from which calls were being forwarded would not operate. If it picked up the line, it would merely give off a high-pitched whistle. This will not be the case, although many people were told to call others that it will be impossible to determine, just by picking up a telephone, whether or not it is set up for call forwarding.

The other problem is a people problem. If many people are likely to be call forwarding service forget to follow good etiquette by calling ahead to warn that calls are being transferred, many false reports of wrong numbers may be given.

Beber stated that conversion to Center will bring about improvement in telephone service at MIT, including improved allo- citation of costs, especially on local calls. The new system keeps track of message units used by each extension, and the units will be billed through MIT accounts.

In an unusual early morning awakening, Tuesday, July 19, Dru Reid Ash, Jr. departed MIT and Cambridge.

Ash, former Managing Editor of The Tech and the past year as Assistant Editor at Technology Review, plans to travel extensively in Central America, especially Mexico and Guatemala. While there he intends to finish his book at a writing desk provided by the Institute and depends on institutions like MIT for new weapons. Even outside the defense field, Watson stated, "the kind of things we work on seem to lead to high-technology solutions."

Ash's position at Technology Review is being taken by Michael Freitag, another former The Tech editor and a writer for the now defunct humor magazine Voodoo.

Ashe flees Cambridge, seeks fame, tranquility

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