"The idea that MIT has the highest suicide rate of any college in the country is a recurring myth, and it is a myth that we are trying to dispel," according to Dr. Thomas Harris, noted psychiatrist and author of the best selling book, "I'm OK, You're OK," which was released Monday by WRCN-FM radio Monday morning.

The feature was part of WRCN's regular program, "School Days," and dealt with what Harris termed the "recurring myth" of MIT being a "high suicide rate" institution.

The feature was hosted by an identified announcer who noted that Boston was known as a "student factory" due to the large number of colleges in the area, and that the pressures on students were often great. Dr. Harris, often loud critics, MIT was characterized as "a school known for its high suicide rate."

The interview with Kahne was the major part of the program. The psychiatrist attributed the "recurring myth" of MIT's high suicide rate to "the difficulty of the curriculum and the reputation the school has for being a high-pressure school.

Kahne also pointed out that suicide rates among student-age Americans in general were rising, with the rate for older people being dropping. The problem of youth today - the war, alienation, and lack of satisfaction underpins the roots that young people have. This is real, and was one reason for the increasing number of student suicides.

The feature was concluded by the announcer, who recommended several counseling services in the Boston-Cambridge Area.

There were four suicides at MIT last spring, reportedly the first suicides in several years. Kahne told The Tech at that time (5/15) that the national suicide rate for college-age people was 20 suicides for every 100,000 students. Kahne recommended that students with problems take advantage of the Medial Department's psychiatric service, "regardless of whether they consider themselves ill."

Dean for Student Affairs Chris Eisenberg later commented that the feature was "a very shallow look at a complicated subject, which raised more questions than it answered."

Eisenberg told The Tech that he had not known that the feature had been prepared, and was told about it by the announcer. He stated, "I have not talked to anyone from the radio station about this."

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Harris and TA: I'm OK, You're OK

By Jules Mollere

In a recent address at the Ford Hall Forum, Dr. Thomas A. Harris, noted psychiatrist and author of the best selling book, "I'm OK, You're OK," described his practice of Transactional Analysis (TA).

Harris announced that he was developing Transactional Analysis further in his second book, "You're OK," which will be released soon. According to Harris, his new book will be devoted to positive actions.

"We've found that If OK, You're OK isn't explicit enough about what can be done. I would like to feel that it goes one step beyond the knowledge that people without this knowledge don't have," Harris stated that the goal of Transactional Analysis is to find out "why men acts as he does and what is needed for him to change." The goal, according to Harris, Transactional Analysis is "one of the most rapidly advancing methods of understanding both ourselves and the bases of change in the world."

"In Transactional Analysis, we see each person as three people or roles as acting from three sets of data: the Parent, the Child and the Adult. When a person is in the grip of strong emotions, we say the Child is him has taken over. If I wish to be very critical, or critical towards others, we say that the Parent now has the upperhand."

"The Adult is the seat of decision and makes choices on the basis of available data. Unfortunately, as human beings, we're often forced to make decisions before all the data is in."

Those people who come to Harris's office for help are, in his opinion, "really asking what change their life has of being different from that time on."

Harris expressed that the Child and the Adult are constant factors, the possibility of change in the Adult might be maximally assured at the moment that it is impossible to change from.

Harris outlined what he believes to be the three types of early decisions a child can make: I'm OK, You're OK, You're not OK or I'm OK and You're not.

"This first possibility (I'm OK, You're OK) is the choice made by about 90% of the population and as such has a profound impact on the way we present ourselves today."

"Another one, choose the accommodation. This comes from a continued input of negative feelings from the parents and often results in schizophrenic behavior."

"The choice of the third alternative by 15% of the population is a clearer indication of everyday brutality and violence. In my studies of bad things, everyone of them had a history of childhood brutality. This is why they dwell on a war, a war with society."}

"The decision that "I'm OK, You're OK" and are allowed to be good people can only be made by the Adult. During the question and answer period that followed Harris was asked what distinguished the Parent, Child and Adult from Freud's Ego, Super ego and Id. He replied that Parent, Child and Adult are real people with real existence whereas Freud's terms are "theoretical concepts with wide dissemination as to what they really mean. Even psychoanalysts fight over the meaning of these words."

Harris told The Tech that he had not known that the feature had been prepared, and was told about it by the announcer. He stated, "I have not talked to anyone from the radio station about this.

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