In defense of ROTC

In defense of their lack of concern for the privacy of certain members of the MIT community in connection with the publishing of confidential information in the Militant's "Militant Guide to MIT Men", the staff of the Militant cites the existence of war-related research and ROTC in campus as being offensive to certain segments of the campus community. There are many people who feel that ROTC, and related military activity, is offensive. In making this comparison, I think that there- ly either does not see or chooses not to see the other obvious differences in military research and training (ROTC) and irresponsible commercial activities.

It is true that there are those who associate war-related military research or ROTC as dangerous psychotics who thrive on the recognition of their deep-seated sadistic tendencies. ROTC's help but wonder if those taking this attitude (which is no different from any of our other obvious differences in military research and training (ROTC) and irresponsible commercial activities.

The occurrence of such events as the Middle East Crisis, the English-Irish conflicts, innumerable atrocities, etc., does not seem to abandon all military activity. The same rockets which were designed for "military" purposes were also used to carry man into space and much of the obvious technology which was used in designing surveillance satellites also went into communications and earth-resources satellites.

If one looks closely, one will find that many of those involved in the military are there for much the same reason that those who condemn them refuse to have any association with them. Both have peace as their ultimate goal - they differ only in their beliefs as to how this peace can best be attained. I think there is an obvious difference between tolerance for an organization whose members are trying, in the way they believe to be most effective, to provide a peaceful solution to the conflict, and those who chose to disregard certain human rights (e.g. privacy) in the course of their journalistic endeavours.

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