Nightline: Counseling by Phone

By Michael Tarvis

"We're a bunch of people who like talking about movies." declared Meredith Warshaw '79, one of the two student co-ordinators of Nightline, a peer help service now available on campus.

Nightline is a student-run hotline on the MIT campus operating from 7pm to 1am every night. This service, which started on November 1st, provides help for two or three people each night to listen or talk about school problems, boy/girl Trouble, roommate hassles, or to just provide information running from what time the LSC movie is showing to contraceptive and drug information. There will always be at least one male and one female student available to answer calls. There is strict confidentiality, of course. "The idea is just to be there," she commented, "to provide a place that's open when everything else closes and you need someone to talk to." The other co-ordinator, Andy Adler '79, explained how Nightline came about. "Many people were working on the idea simultaneously. A lot of groups of students were thinking that it (Nightline) would be a good thing to have. Somewhere in March, Herb Lin [UG] submitted a proposal to Paul Gray for funding and it was approved. Adler expanded on what kind of services Nightline would provide. "Basically we have to be able to provide information about anything movie related, or more so that is open late at night, contraceptives, or just to talk about school problems." "We also are for any student who wants to talk to someone," Warshaw added. "Maybe it's midnight or later and you're all alone, maybe you've got a problem that you want to discuss with someone, anonymous, that sort of thing." Nightline would also try to keep tabs on such in formations in good places to live, or where free meals are available.

The thirty students involved have put in three or four hours a week. The phones are answered in four different types of calls. "The main part of the call is ongoing," Warshaw stated firmly. "We're a supplementary service, not the only one that has fun for the other services. We are not counselors. We are not capable of being professional counselors.

One of the important roles we will be playing will be providing referrals to counseling services," Adler added.

We don't expect that many phone calls for the first few weeks until we get a solid base. Warshaw continued, "We're a bunch of people who care about the campus, and want to be helpful." The thirty students involved are aware of the need for a sort of thing. Nightline would temporarily, or where free meals are available. Nightline number is x3-7840, or 253-7840 if you are calling from outside the Institute.

The Hatch-ing of a King

By Lenny Marin

Red Cross Blood Drive donors are up in the pace if the 170 pint goal for this fall's MIT drive is to be reached. The Red Cross collected 157 pints on Thursday, the drive's opening day, and 195 pints yesterday. An average of 212.5 pints per day is needed to meet the goal. The drive is running from 9:45 to 3:30 today and Tuesday through Thursday. Monday's hours are 2:30 to 8:15, and next Friday's are 11:15 to 5:00.

Visa Reed '78, a 1976 Blood Drive Chairman, and present assistant on the Red Cross to college donor recruiting, said, "We would be worried if we didn't have a good showing on Friday, because it has traditionally been a fairly heavy day.

"We always start slow," said Blood Drive Chairman Tom Crowley '78, commenting on the opening day, "We don't usually start slow. We were originally hoping for 150 to 190 pints."

Reddy stated "MIT is the number one college donor on the Eastern seaboard." MIT Donates, on the average, 20% to 25% of the amount of blood per person as any other college. "People around here are aware of the need for blood, much more so than the general population," explained Reddy. "We could run an emergency drive after the great blizzard, have 24 hours of snow, but no one would donate any blood."

On the other hand, Reddy pointed out that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology currently has about two-and-a-half years' supply of extra blood that the Red Cross would like it to have. "We're not critically short of blood, however, we do not have enough of a cushion to handle a situation like this."

Especially short are O positive, A negative, and O negative blood, with 54 percent, 40 percent, and 37 percent, respectively, of the population's blood types.

The Red Cross encourages prospective donors to make appointments and to remember that blood is free to walk in without one when the drive is on. Anyone who would like to go when the drive center, in the SLA at the Student Center is not crowded, can call Gray for sort of thing. Crowley advised, "Morning is better than afternoons on Friday . . . Probably in general, mornings are better.

The Red Cross has introduced a new feature in this fall's blood drive. "We are playing music, which has not been done in the past. We try to vary it during the day," said Crowley. The theme of the music on Wednesday night, Crowley called for more entertainers to volunteer their services, saying, "We have some people who are just jugglin' in front of people, they're welcome to it."

This fall's Red Cross blood drive, which is being held in the Sale of Puerto Rico, continues today and next Monday through Friday. (Photo by Richard Stoley)