NSF analyzes researchers’ time use

By Charles Theuer

A recent survey by the National Science Foundation (NSF) indicates that university researchers apparently spend most of their time on academic activity associated with research. At MIT and other universities, many researchers spend only 16 hours of their average 50-hour work week on research projects.

According to the survey of the non-research activity that researchers do, which occupies over 30 hours of their work week, is teaching, program management, and faculty meetings. Sources at MIT indicated that the research work of its researchers accounts for a larger percentage of their total work week, pointing out the common misconception that a researcher spends virtually all of his time in the laboratory.

The NSF survey went into detail in analyzing the non-research work that researchers do. The NSF study noted that the average engineering or scientific researcher spends 16 hours of his time on research related endeavors, about 16 hours either teaching or preparing lectures, about 10 hours in management or a public service field, and approximately 3 hours in work related to an activity which brings in a supplemental income. The remaining few hours of a typical work week is usually spent attending meetings related to the researcher’s field.

The general purpose of the NSF study, according to Charles H. Dickens, who directed this study, was to gain a better understanding of the research work currently being performed at universities around the country.

Coop sales (Continued from page 1) reported an increase in the number of sales of women's undergarments. Stevens said, “Women are coming in and buying four or five pairs of underwear.”

The McCormick Judicial Committee has put up signs in the elevators warning women to stay in the laundry room while they are washing and drying their clothing. The woman in Senior House whose laundry was stolen put up a sign, and Currier has put one up in the Burton House laundry room. “I told the Burton desk to watch people coming through,” said Currier.

“We’re not setting a penalty until we find who [the thief] is,” said Larosiliere. If the thief is a visitor, then the McCormick Jud-Comm will find out what women put him on the guest list and will make the women responsible for “monetary compensation,” according to Purdy.

“I think whoever is doing it [the thefts] is being particular about the type of underwear,” said Larosiliere. She explained, “They don’t steal plain cotton under- wear; they steal only nylon and fancy-type underwear.”

One McCormick woman expressed her fear over the thefts. “Two girls on my floor went up to the seventh floor to get some quarters, and when they came back down five minutes later their wash was gone. It is scary, because you think someone is watching you.”

The Burton House laundry theft was not reported to the Campus Police, and the Campus Police said “not over ten reports” of laundry thefts. Glavin urged students to report their laundry thefts to the Campus Police. “For any crime, you should always report it... you have no idea how that piece of information will fit into the picture,” she said.

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