Survey reveals views on science

By Michael Gojner
Second of a two-part series
A majority of MIT undergraduates believe that the lay public generally does not have the right to have input into the way experiments are conducted, according to MIT's Student Pugwash 1984 survey, whose results have just recently been released.

Fifty-one percent of the almost 700 respondents also assert that the general public should not have the right to help define which intellectual problems should be investigated, although most of the students were willing to grant the lay public a role in implementing the results of intellectual research.

Almost half of the students polled thought this right should be limited to those who had some minimal knowledge of the relevant scientific issues. Yet all but seven percent of those polled agreed that basic scientific research has benefits and risks which extend beyond the scientific community.

Students prefer non-military jobs

Fifty-six percent of Student Pugwash's respondents—including 65 percent of the women surveyed—said they had a strong to mild preference for non-military jobs. Pugwash's respondents included those who had some form of military experience. Furthermore, the majority of the American public and undergraduates polled believed that new technologies based on scientific research would likely solve more problems than they would cause. But a much larger percentage of MIT students were that confident in future scientific advances.

Students differ on public's role

Fifty-six percent of MIT undergraduates, most of whom were enrolled in science or engineering, believed that the lay public should be limited to those who had some intellectual knowledge of the relevant scientific issues. Nearly three-fourths of the students had some form of public point of view and neither does the CAA. The Corporation is "a collection of individuals" and their policy represents "the center of gravity," Saxon said.

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CAA accorded of from

The meeting came after the CAA marched from 77 Mass. Ave. to the Corporation meeting at the Faculty Club in the Sloan Building.

The sixth floor which houses the faculty club was locked. Students pounded on the door for 20 minutes until the Corporation cut the protesters' amplifier and power was shut off. No student was injured.

Sloan Professor of Chemistry David Packard was one of the protesters who returned to the Sloan lobby where they were in part of the possibility of a meeting with Corporation members.

When discussing their plans, a few of MIT's professors sat down on the floor of the building. The professors initially wanted to confront the Corporation as they left the faculty club but decided it would be prudent to leave the building.

The CAA set up a speaker outside the Sloan Building. Soon after, members started to speak to passersby until they were invited into the Sloan lobby where they were instructed to the Corporation.

The Corporation members explained investment logic

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