

The Ghetto: five years of black radio

by Mike McNamee
 "Entertaining your soul and educating your mind — coming at you from WTBS at MIT in Cambridge, this is Ace bringing you *The Ghetto*."

Drawing out the last word — "Ghettoooo" — Ace — Gerald Adolph '75 — turns to the turntable beside him, cues in the next song by the Stylistics, and turns back to the reporter.

"We believe in participation radio. Instead of stacking up 497 records and playing 'em all and coming back and saying that was so-and-so playing that just after the 399th record, which was thus-and-such, we want the listener to get involved. We take more requests, have more features, do more interviews..."

The phone rings. Ace answers, and takes a request. JC — James Clark '75 — takes over with the reporter.

"Yeah, we've done things that had never been done before on radio in Boston, and that a lot of stations started doin' after we did 'em. We offered more live interviews than all the commercial stations in this town combined."

He pauses. "We've spread a lot of radio talent in this city. A lot of people in Boston communications have come through WTBS and *The Ghetto*."

The Ghetto, WTBS's mid-night-to-3am soul radio program, is approaching its fifth anniversary on the airwaves in style. A feature television program on WCVB-TV Saturday night will spotlight the show's anniversary — a bit prematurely, since the "birthday" won't take place until May 1. From the two hours a week of programming offered when *The Ghetto* started in 1970, the show has expanded to seven nights a week, offering seven different disk jockeys presenting seven variations on one main theme — "sugar-coated education."

"Our purpose and function is basically to be educational radio," Ace said. "But people don't want to listen to what they ought to listen to. They turn you off. So we take bits and pieces of information, sugar coat it with music, and slip it to 'em reeal eeeasssy."

Features like "Black Facts," "Check-in," "Talk to the

People," and "Instant Request," combined with a heavy schedule of black-oriented community services, have helped to make WTBS's type of education popular in the Boston black community. WTBS-sponsored events, like the Rockwell Cage concert featuring the soul group Mandrill two years ago; "Party of the Year," set of five simultaneous benefit parties held throughout the city to gather food for prison programs; and "Project Concern," a fund-raising project which raised \$4000 in pledges for Southern University in Louisiana after two black students were killed there, draw standing-room-only crowds from throughout the Boston area.

"*The Ghetto* began to fill a perceived need in radio for the Boston black community," according to "The History of *The Ghetto*," a half-hour radio program prepared for the fourth anniversary last year. There was no black-oriented programming after midnight, and so MIT blacks, many of them freshmen, started to offer *The Ghetto* on WTBS in 1970.

"The commercial stations

were real surprised to find out black people listened to the radio after midnight," JC observed. "Now, they're beginning to program there."

The program, aided by improvements in WTBS's facilities, began to reach a broader following in the community. *The Ghetto*'s staff expanded, to the point where almost all the top offices at WTBS were occupied by Ghetto staffers. Even today, a large portion of the programming on WTBS consists of *The Ghetto* and its spin-offs — *Angel Welcome*, a gospel program, and *Sunrise*, a jazz show offered from 3 to 7am six mornings a week, among others.

"We have a lot of following out there. Within Route 128, we probably have the black audience, period," JC said.

Within the MIT campus, however, *The Ghetto* doesn't have much of a following. "We've had all the phones so busy that the system crashed sometimes, and the dorm-lines haven't rung once," JC noted. Despite the late-night work habits of many MIT students, *The Ghetto* doesn't seem to attract many listeners.

The Ghetto apparently has even fewer fans among the MIT administration, a fact that makes many staffers bitter. "When we had the (Mandrill) concert — the only concert on this campus in years that made money — we got more flack than help from MIT," Ace said. "All our events are run by our staff with no help and no subsidies from MIT, and we get nothing for the time we put in on the show."

Part of the problem is uncertainty about WTBS's status. Although officially a student activity, the station has had problems in the past obtaining MIT funds because many of its staff — especially *Ghetto* staff —

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Car thefts epidemic in city

By Danny Naddor

Despite the rising incidence of car theft in the MIT community, automobile owners still have the means to effectively deter car thieves, according to Campus Patrol Chief James Olivieri.

The Boston-Cambridge area, Olivieri said, has long been plagued by car thievery, having one of the highest incidences of car thefts in the country. In 1973, 130 car thefts from the MIT campus and surrounding Cambridge area were reported to the Campus Patrol.

This number climbed 51 per cent to an all-time high of 196 in 1974, Olivieri noted. The biggest trouble spot for the CP was the stretch of Memorial Drive from Westgate to the Sloan Building, with 58 thefts and 33 unsuccessful attempts reported there last year.

The *modus operandi* used by local car thieves is a fairly standard one. First, Olivieri explained, the radio antenna is broken off, hooked at the end, and inserted through the rubber strip between the front and rear windows to lift the door lock button. A screwdriver may also be used for this purpose.

Once the thief has entered the vehicle, he uses a dent-puller, an instrument familiar to body repair mechanics, to rip out the ignition from the dashboard, enabling him to cross certain wires and start the car. This instrument, known "in the trade" as a "slam," does the job in about 12 seconds, Olivieri said. The ease with which Ford ignitions can be "popped" explains why Ford cars overwhelming "led the hit parade" with 52 stolen in 1974, he added.

There are a number of preventive measures available to car owners, stated Olivieri. One such deterrent to car thieves is the installation of a "dead switch," a hidden switch which must be thrown to complete the ignition circuit and start the car. Another precaution is to remove the coil wire, located in the engine between the ignition coil and the distributor, especially when leaving the car parked for an extended period of time. A car thief, when confronted with such an obstacle, will not generally attempt to locate the problem, but will rather abandon the vehicle in search of easier prey, Olivieri said.

Another deterrent, somewhat

less effective than those already mentioned, is the replacing of flared door lock buttons with rounded, cylindrical ones, thus preventing the lifting of the button with an antenna or screwdriver. Finally, Olivieri noted, packages should never be left in a car exposed to view since they serve to further entice the potential car thief, "be they lunch bags or suitcases." Such articles should be placed in the trunk.

Crook locks, thought to be excellent theft-preventive devices, are not invulnerable, explained Olivieri. Once the car thief gains entry to the vehicle, he can hacksaw the crook lock, or wrench it free from the brake pedal, and run little risk of being spotted.

The greatest aid to Campus Patrol in combatting car theft has been the vigilance of the MIT community in reporting unusual activity in nearby parking lots and streets. Despite the fact that 94 of the 196 thefts last year took place during the daytime, there were 28 arrests made in 1974 relating to car theft, and numerous theft attempts were thwarted by arriving patrolmen, alarms, and other protective devices.



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NOTES

* Annual Kresge Scheduling meetings for 1975-1976 will be held on the following dates:

- Main Auditorium: April 17 at 2pm in the Mezzanine Lounge;
- Little Theatre: April 24 at 2pm in the West Lounge;

These meetings are primarily for users of Kresge who are planning their programs significantly in advance. Groups working on a shorter time frame may submit their applications any time after these meetings.

* All students should obtain a final examination schedule at the information center, 7-111. Examinations not listed or a conflict in examinations, such as two examinations in the same period, must be reported to the schedules office by Friday, April 25.

* The Physics Department will hold an open house for freshmen and sophomores interested in learning more about the opportunities in physics for a major and/or a career on Monday, April 14, from 7pm to 9pm in the Student Center Mezzanine Lounge. Department faculty and students will be on hand to chat with students and answer questions about course requirements and options for physics majors, career opportunities, etc.

* Two classical styles of dancing and a Sitar recital will be featured in the INDIAN CLASSICAL EVENING - a program organized by the SANGAM club for India affairs at MIT on Saturday April 26 at 7:00pm in the Kresge Auditorium.

* The Association for Women's Students' Activities is sponsoring a presentation by Laya Wiesner on "Women in China." Included in the presentation will be a slide presentation of slides taken while she and Dr. Wiesner were in China. Both men and women are invited to attend the presentation on Monday, April 14, 15 5:30pm in Room 37-212.

* The Black Rose Lecture Series is presenting Peggy Sommers, feminist and activist, speaking on "Libertarian Marxism and Feminism," Friday night, April 18, 1975, at 8:00pm in 9-150.

* The First Annual North American Beer Drinking Contest will be held Tuesday, April 22, at 10pm in the Charles Playhouse Cabaret, 74 Warrenton St., Boston. Persons entering the contest are asked to donate beer at the door. Prizes will be awarded to those contestants who drink the largest number of beers in the shortest amount of time. Phone 542-9441 for more details.

* The Tufts University Win Ensemble will participate in a Boston 200-sponsored musical celebration on Saturday, April 19, the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, at City Hall Plaza, Boston. The program will begin at 10am with collegiate and military concert bands from MIT, Harvard, Yale, Boston University, the Naval Academy and the US Armed Forces Bicentennial Concert Band.

* Francis Sargent, the former governor of Massachusetts discusses "Rights to Privacy" in the Vital Issues Program of Tufts University's College Within, Thursday, April 17 at 8pm, Sweet Hall, Boston Ave., Medford. Free.

Ghetto influence spread far beyond MIT campus

(Continued from page 2)

are not MIT students. As a non-commercial station, WTBS can't raise money through selling advertising.

"We're actually improving MIT's image out there in the black community," JC said. "What do you think Boston blacks thought of MIT before we came out? MIT was that school across the river where smart white kids go with their slide rules."

MIT's position on many Ghetto and Black Student Union events has been equivocal. The events, unlike most student-sponsored programs, are open to the community - a fact that apparently gives the adminis-

tration qualms about security. The blacks, however, see this as an "anti-community" attitude.

"The Institute doesn't mind losing three grand on a concert where MIT kids can come and be entertained, but no community people are let in," JC said. "Our events are open to the community, and never lose money - they've made money for community groups. And we've never had trouble."

Ace answers one of the two ringing phones. "Yes, brother, we'll play that for you right away," he says, hanging up and reaching for an announcement as the record comes to an end. *The Ghetto*, five years old, was going strong.

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