Robert L. Coble, Retired Professor, Dies at 64

Robert L. Coble, a retired professor of materials science and engineering and a widely recognized ceramics researcher, died Thursday of heart failure at his home in Billerica, Mass. He was 64 and had a residence in Lexington.

Coble's research at the General Electric Research Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y., led to the sintering of carbide tips for cutting tools and was used to produce computer-controlled machine tools, would produce complex parts that, in the days before computer-controlled machine tools, would have been too costly to machine.

After he came to MIT in 1960, Coble concentrated his research on physical ceramics and the kinetics of ceramics processes.

Coble was born in Uniontown, Pa. He received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Pennsylvania State College in 1950 and his Ph.D. from MIT in 1955. After working for General Electric for five years, he was appointed to the MIT faculty as an assistant professor of ceramics in the Department of Metallurgy, now the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. He was named a full professor in 1969 and was given emeritus status when he retired in 1988.

In 1974, Coble went to Japan as a visiting scientist under an appointment from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Coble's research at the General Electric Research Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y., led to the sintering of carbide tips for cutting tools and was used to produce computer-controlled machine tools, would produce complex parts that, in the days before computer-controlled machine tools, would have been too costly to machine.

Coble has been a member of the American Ceramic Society, the Ceramic Manufacturing Institute, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the National Academy of Engineering.

Coble is survived by his wife, Joan (Walker) of Lexington; three sons, David W. of Townsend, Eric R. of Acton, and Stefan G. of Lexington; and two daughters, Cindy of Billerica and Janet Drozd of Bridgewater, and 11 grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 19 in the MIT Chapel. The body was cremated in Hawaii.
Clinton Picks Up Labor Backing, Targets Bush's Economics

By Cathleen Decker

WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton picked up the endorsement of the 13 million voting members of the AFL-CIO Thursday, and used the occasion to deride President Bush's economic proposals for the country.

"Now, I'm a Baptist, so I believe in deathbed conversions. But this is amazing," he said, implying several hundred labor leaders that the change of heart was prompted by Bush's political ambitions.

"Tell you what," he joked, "no matter what happens, our campaign has done some good for some people in this country.

``Later in the day, Clinton flew to Florida's Homestead Air Force Base, which was ravaged by Hurricane Andrew. Along with a control television cameras, he toured the affected area, which has been the recipient of two federal flood disasters.

Clinton has targeted the president's economic proposals for special aches in recent days so he can portray Bush as a man who has deserted working Americans. This theme rang loud and clear through all of Clinton's remarks as he formally accepted labor's endorsement.

Hussein Regime Remains Solid

While Foundations Crack

By Susan Squires

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

On the surface the sprawling city of Baghdad, stretching in miles of concrete homes on either side of the muddy Tigris River, works and plays like a developed country. Power, telephones, potable water service—all have been restored to something close to their pre-war level.

Confident soldiers in crisply pressed uniforms stroll the city streets and guard the palm-shaded villas of government officials. Near the site of the destroyed U.S. Embassy, Iraqis' "victory" in the "Mother of All Battles"—as President Saddam Hussein calls the war—the twin pillars that prop up Hussein's authority, the military and self-serving propaganda, appear solid.

But two years of isolation and economic sanctions, combined with Hussein's promise to "feed and kill" under U.S. food and fuel blockaded United Nations monitoring, exacting an increasing cost in the suffering of ordinary Iraqis, has made the city a tinderbox, with those unlucky enough to reach the inner city, dying.

During July, 42 combat deaths were recorded in the area. Before the war, Iraqis seldom thought of war and never of their own deaths. But now, with the war, they have become aware of death and its immediate consequences.

"We just want to wait and see," said an Iraqi merchant, sitting in his window. "We usually changed the import and export of food items to Baghdad. With the economic situation as it is now in Iraq, we want to make sure we will get paid, and we want to be sure we won't be executed for doing business."

"Sure we won't be executed for doing business." In Iraq, we want to make sure we will get paid, and we want to be sure we won't be executed for doing business. Since then, Iraq's import lifeline has collapsed. The flow of trucks from Jordan to Iraq has slowed to 12 a day, down from a high of nearly 200. Such houses at the Jordan-Iraq border. The flow of trucks from Jordan to Iraq, we want to make sure we will get paid, and we want to be sure we won't be executed for doing business.

Retail Stock Rally Spurs Hope

WASHINGTON

Retail stocks have turned up sharply this week, and at least one stock analyst thinks the rally could be a solid, long-run pick for investors.

By2 Million, Census Reports

By Blaine Harden

WASHINGTON, DC

The number of Americans living below the official poverty line has decreased for the second straight year, Census Bureau data show.

Chapter 13: Research

The number of Americans living below the official poverty line has decreased for the second straight year, Census Bureau data show.

By Blaine Harden

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Bush Turns to Doing Out Money to Satisfy Key Voters

By Doyle McManus

WASHINGTON

In stressing on Wednesday a massive increase in government and politically vital Midwestern states that will have to bear the cost of a large increase in the federal budget, President Bush clearly indicated a key part of his plan for winning back disaffected voters.

Bush’s strategy is simple: Head out federal aid and make policy decisions that benefit important voters, even though these votes may come from his traditional constituencies.

Beginning with a $2 billion job-creating program announced last week, Bush’s campaign has been supported by demonstrations of presidential largesse, from barri-}

China Protests U.S. Selling of 150 F-16s to Taiwan

By David Halley

In an angry protest against the Bush administration’s decision to sell up to 150 F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan, China threatened Thursday to withdraw from international arms control talks and cut cooperation with Washington at the United Nations.

A Chinese diplomat said the United States had made an “incredible decision” that would endanger the future of Sino-US relations. He said the United States had made a “serious mistake” in selling the F-16s.

The Sino-US communiqué warned that unless the United States cancelled the sale, Beijing would take “appropriate measures” to counteract the US move.

In a clear reference to the Chinese military, the communiqué called on the United States to “review” its decision before it was too late.

Bush has been pressured by the China lobby to abandon the F-16 sale, which many argue will undermine efforts to advance Sino-US relations.

The F-16s, which are among the most advanced fighters in the world, are capable of carrying guided missiles and are designed to counteract the advantage of Chinese aircraft.

Parents: Keep up with your son or daughter while they’re at MIT. Give us a call at 253-1541, and we’ll give you information on subscriptions. Prices begin at $25.

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Europe Can Not Wait
On Maastricht

The 340 million people of Europe are among the 20 percent of the world’s population who share 80 percent of the world’s wealth. Yet 53 million people in Europe live in poverty. I will soon vote yes in the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty. But this does not mean I am simply going along with “a bunch of national leaders,” as Matthew Hersch suggested in his column on the treaty (“Europeans Should Wait on Towards Unity,” Sept. 2).

The Maastricht treaty is not only a tool. The real question Europe faces is not whether to accept the treaty, but how it will be used to allow informed European citizens to participate in an effective government.

Cécile Martin

Letters Policy

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinions of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors and opinion editors.

Disputes, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author’s signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.
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**Hush little baby don’t you cry. If someone doesn’t do something, you’ll just die. Be a Peace Corps volunteer.**

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**Johnson Athletic Center**

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About Applications and Awards

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**Overlap Decision May Lead to Lawsuits Against MIT**

**Use a Little Restraint With Your Kids.**

**MIT Music Group Auditions**

**MIT Brass Ensemble**
Rehearsals: Tuesday, Thursday, 5:30-7:30, Killian Hall
Auditions: Tuesday, September 15 from 4-6pm, Killian Hall

**MIT Chamber Music Society**
Auditions: Wednesday, September 9, 7pm, Killian Hall
Solo piece required of new members.

**MIT Concert Band**
Rehearsals: Monday, Thursday, 5:30-7:30, Wednesday 9-10pm, Kresge Auditorium.
Auditions: Wednesday, September 9 at 4pm, Sala de Puerto Rico
Seating Auditions: Monday, September 14, 5:30pm, Kresge Auditorium

**MIT Concert Choir**
Rehearsals: Monday, Thursday, 7-9pm, Thursday, 7-9pm, Reh. 2-190.
Auditions: Monday, September 14, 6pm, Reh. 2-190.
Group auditions, no solo required.

**MIT Concert Jazz Band**
Rehearsals: Saturday, 10-1pm, Kresge Auditorium.
Auditions: Sunday, September 6 at 7pm.
Solo encouraged, sight-reading from jazz book required.

**MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble**
Rehearsals: Sunday, 7-11; Wednesday 5:30-7:30, Kresge Auditorium.
Auditions: Sunday, September 6 at 7pm.
Improvisation preferred, sight-reading from jazz book required.

**MIT Symphony Orchestra**
Rehearsals: Tuesday, Thursday, 7:30-10pm, Kresge Auditorium.
First meeting: Reading through symphonic literature and audition sign-up.
Thursday, September 10 at 7:30pm, Kresge Auditorium.

**MIT Chamber Chorus**
Rehearsals: Thursday, 12-1:30, Reh. 4-260
First meeting: Thursday, September 10, 12-1:30pm, Reh. 4-260
Being prepared w/c.

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**Students Support MIT's Overlap Battle**

Robert Block, chief of the Professions and Intellectual Property Section of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, which was responsible for the case, said it was hard to predict whether students would try to recover lost financial aid through lawsuits against the Institute and other Overlap schools.

"It's very difficult to tell whether they'll be any follow-on cases," Block said yesterday from Washington, D.C. "Each individual has to assess how they feel about their particular circumstances before they make that decision."

**Overlap may continue meeting**
Recent Congressional action may allow MIT and the Ivy League schools to start meeting again to discuss financial aid awards without penalty. The Higher Education Amendments of 1992, passed shortly after the conclusion of the Overlap trial, will make some of the behavior that was the subject of the lawsuit legal for two years, according to a footnote in U.S. District Court Judge Louis C. Bechtel's 49-page decision.

The law explicitly forbids schools from discussing financial aid awards for particular students who were admitted to more than one school within the Overlap Group, which Bechtel found was a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. But the main section of the new law does permit schools to discuss among themselves strategies for awarding financial aid, which the Justice Department alleged was a violation of antitrust laws.

According to the amendments, higher education institutions may voluntarily agree with any other institution of higher education to award financial aid... to students attending those institutions only at the basis of demonstrated financial need. Schools are also granted power to "discuss and voluntarily adopt defined principles... for determining student financial need."

Staffers in the Washington, D.C., office of Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), who sponsored the bill containing the revised amendments, said they did not know how many Overlap-type activities are legal under the new law.

"They certainly can not agree on individual financial aid awards," Block said. "I don't think the Overlap schools can go back to agreeing on a formula for financial aid similar to what they were doing before," but any determination beyond that is a question of interpretation, he said.

**Cost, from Page 1**

The Supreme Court if need be.

An important issue

"This is a very, very important issue, and it does have important consequences for how we conduct ourselves as an institution," Simides said. "I hope we can carry on, and prevail, so we can be left alone and freely exchange information and ideas."

"I don't think twice about it in terms of the importance of it," Simides said. "I would say that I am very happy and proud to be a member of an institution that stands up to what it believes to be an important issue, that stands up against government intrusion. What is very unfortunate is that the government has chosen to sue on this issue."

**Student support**

Students were generally supportive of the Institute's stand, despite the cost, which runs well over $100 per student.

"I'm peeved about the decision," said James R. Wilson '93. "Without a doubt we should be arguing this. If schools start competing for freshmen, if you're not one of the people being competed for, that means you can't go to that school! There's sometimes a principle that has to be fought for."

Another student said that while MIT was correct in fighting the suit, the Institute should not have had to stand up alone.

"It would be nice if some of the Overlap members had contributed," said Kenneth A. Ellis '93. "But it was a worthy fight. I'm not concerned about the $100 per student. I'm more concerned about losing the case." Ellis defended MIT's policy of need-based aid, and argued that the government should stay clear of the issue.

"Basically I think that need-based aid is a good idea, something that should definitely be implemented. I think the purpose of the suit is that the government will introduce some sort of legislation for need-based aid. It's working just fine right now. I don't think the government should interfere."

Bernard Y. Chin '93 also defended the freshman's stand.

"I think we should go ahead and pursue the suit," he said. "I believe that the MIT financial aid system has been working well so far, and I don't think there should be any changes to it."

Chin added that while he was offered relatively similar financial aid packages among the Ivy League schools he applied to, he chose MIT after "rationalizing that it was the best engineering school."
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What about these Public and Private directories?
~Public and ~Private were created to help you manage your files easily. (Files you place in ~Public are readable by everyone.) Files you put in ~Private are not listable by anyone but you.

What else happened that I should know about?
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For details about these and other topics related to AFS, pick up a copy of the free document AFS at Athena in your favorite cluster or from Graphic Arts (11-004 or W20-028), or look at it online via OLH. At the athena% prompt, type:

help afs:main_menu

MIT Information Systems
Jim's Journal

by Jim

Today Hal and I closed up the copy store at midnight. When we were almost done, Hal said, "You can go home, Jim, I'll take care of the rest." As I was walking away, I saw Hal through the window, wiping off the counters.

For a few seconds he concentrated his scrubbing in one little area, probably where there was a stain or something.

Thank you.
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(Which I happen to know has a population
can and I head down to the local pool hall
my watch, 5 o’clock. Alright, so my calling
the city, so we’re hanging out and I look at
Mars, we decide to take off and check out
something. Anyway, one Sunday and
they think I was kidnapped by aliens.

You know it’s ridiculous, it’s not even my

September 4, 1992
Jim's Journal

I was sitting at home today when I heard a scratching sound.

I went to see what it was.

It was Mr. Peterson, playing with the phone cord, which was chewed in half.

while I held it, Mr. Peterson batted at it.

I went to an electronics store today to buy a new phone cord.

The salesman said, "Hi, what can I do for ya today?"

I told him I needed a new phone cord.

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