News Analysis

Cost of federal programs rising

By Mike McNamara

Professor of Biology Maurice Fox (inset) will probably head the Committee on Biohazards.

News Analysis

Insurance rate not rising despite Tang Hall fire

By Thomas Mayer

MIT pays large sums for insurance every year. Next year will be no exception, but despite the Tang Hall fire last July, trigenic because of the death of Senator Robert G., the rate at which they're growing.

The population of a country or the mean income of its citizens often don’t mean much by themselves. But the rates of increase of these figures can be a golden rule for study and analysis.

A recent American Council on Education study of the costs and private and public institutions shows that federal programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and supplemental security, and unemployment benefits imposed costs totaling from 1 to 4 percent of the institutions’ budgets.

While those figures seem low, the study also pointed out that such costs have risen by a factor of 10 to 20 in the last 10 years. That rate, it studied, was "considerably faster than increases in the costs of instruction." And the rate of increase itself is increasing, meaning that the government is setting up in imposing expensive programs on strained institutions.

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According to Kimball Valentine, MIT Insurance Officer, "Tang Hall has not changed the numbers he's studying that have been in the past.

The claim on the Tang Hall fire will be paid by the Institute’s insurance companies, two members of a group of "Factoy Mutuals" that provide coverage for MIT. The Institute in the last five years has averaged around $136,000 in annual insurance payments, according to figures furnished by Accounting Officer John Delightly.

The insurance offered by the Factory Mutuals isn’t a bargain, but the Institute isn’t in the market for a bargain. Valentine said that what the Institute was really paying for was the excellent service provided by its insurer.

By Mike McNamara

Appointment of a Committee on Biohazards to study and keep track of research and development of biohazardous agents is apparently underway within the administration, although no one is sure where the next stands.

An informal committee of faculty and DSR staff in the Cancer Research Center, the Department of Biology, the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and the Environmental Medical Service has drawn up a proposal for such a Committee on Biohazards at the request of Provost Walter Rosenbth.

Under their proposal, the committee would maintain a register of biohazardous agents and collect up-to-date information on control of such agents and safe procedures to be used when research is conducted with these. The group would also have responsibility for ensuring MIT’s compliance with federal regulations on biohazards which are expected to be issued soon.

Biohazardous materials fall into two classes: recombinant DNA agents, organisms which contain genetic material modified by recently-discovered molecular techniques, and some scientists feel could lead to "terrific biochemicals in the laboratory; and actually or potentially pathogenic organisms, agents such as tumor viruses which can cause disease in humans.

Scientific and public concern over biohazard has increased sharply in recent months with the publicity given to an informal moratorium on recombinant DNA work at several research centers because of biohazards and fear of "genetic engineering."

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By Mike McNamara

Leaving aside the Abbott-and-Costello routine the administration is putting through on the appointment (see page 13) of a Committee on Biohazards—the Provost says the Associate Provost knows all about it, but he says the guy who wrote the proposal is the one to talk to, although he understands the guy’s advisor has already heard back from the Provost’s Office yet—the appointment of that group, when it finally comes, will be one of the most welcome pieces of news at MIT in a while.

Biohazardous agents—unusual genetic material and tumor-causing viruses—are agents that are capable of producing diseases that are dangerous to the health and safety of the general public and to the environment. The recent interest in these agents is due in large part to the realization that some of these agents can be accidentally released into the environment and can cause serious health problems and environmental damage. The committee will be responsible for providing scientific advice and guidance to the administration on matters relating to biohazards.

The public would probably be willing to believe the worst about biohazards if they were not convinced that a reasonable level of safety can be achieved through proper precautions. The committee will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures to ensure the safe handling and disposal of biohazardous agents.

The committee will also be responsible for developing and implementing procedures to ensure the safe handling and disposal of biohazardous agents. This will include the development of guidelines for the safe handling and disposal of biohazardous agents, as well as the development of procedures for the safe transport and storage of biohazardous agents.

The committee will also be responsible for providing education and training to individuals who work with biohazardous agents. This will include the development of training programs for individuals who work with biohazardous agents, as well as the development of educational materials for use in schools and other institutions.

The committee will also be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate regulatory agencies are notified of any incidents involving biohazardous agents. This will include the development of procedures for notifying regulatory agencies of any incidents involving biohazardous agents, as well as the development of procedures for responding to incidents involving biohazardous agents.

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Final examinations shall be held during the final examination period following each term. For each subject in which a final examination is given during the prescribed period, no class exercises shall be held during the period beginning two days, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, before the examination period and ending at the examination period. Any single examination shall be limited to not over three hours.

The Dean for Student Affairs in the case of an undergraduate student, or the Dean of the Graduate School in the case of a graduate student, may excuse a student from a scheduled final examination for reasons of illness or significant personal problems. For each subject in which a final examination is given during the prescribed period, no written examinations shall be given during the seven days preceding the examination period. For each subject in which no final examination is given during the prescribed period, no more than one written examination of not more than one hour (one class period in the case of laboratory or design subjects) shall be given during the seven days preceding the examination period.

No assignment, term paper, or oral presentation for any subject shall fall due after the last day of class exercises for that subject.

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US programs: growing burden

(Continued from page 1)

"something like Title 9 takes hundreds of hours to respond to and to plan for the necessary changes, administrative time, time for the legal experts here, and staff time," Wyman said. "One new employment-security bill has a provision to have a full-time employee doing nothing but writing descriptions of our pension plans. That's the kind of thing that begins to weigh on and burden you administratively."

These federal programs are important steps in advancing toward highly valued social and environmental goals, the ACE report says, "but they also involve costs that are not explicitly recognized or provided for by any of the sources of financial support for institutions."

Only six institutions were studied by the ACE team, and differences between schools can result in great disparities in costs. The study team stated three hypotheses, however, which would tend to increase rather than decrease such costs for an institution like MIT:

- Large, prestigious institutions are more involved than others, and feel correspondingly greater pressures for early and full compliance with federal rules, they said.
- Institutions that take the lead in carrying out federal regulations - as MIT has done in many technical areas - "are likely to incur development costs of innovations" which will not apply to colleges complying later.
- Private institutions generally bear a heavier burden when a program is implemented than state institutions which can fall back upon special appropriations from their legislatures or the services of state agencies or attorneys general to meet large one-time, administrative, capital and legal costs.

In addition, MIT's huge research load makes it subject to another set of federal rules and regulations governing research facilities and safety standards to protect research workers. Those regulations impose both a one-time cost for facility improvements and a continuing cost for maintenance and staffing - an increase in overhead which effectively eats the money available for researchers' salaries and materials.

What are colleges and universities doing about the flood of federal programs and their attendant costs? Many institutions are reexamining their administration to provide easier response to federal requests for data and comments on regulations, Wyman said that five schools at a recent Ivy League-MIT-Stanford meeting reported establishing a "general council's office" to deal with such matters within the last year - a move MIT does not plan to follow, he said. Others are increasing their lobbying efforts to gain greater influence over programs before they are issued.

The ACE report recommend that colleges take a broad look at government activity and work to alert federal officials about unexpected impacts of their programs - spin-off results like the impact of business-oriented reforms when they are applied to non-businesslike colleges and universities.

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Biohazard group under study

(Continued from page 11)

agents in use on campus, where and under what conditions they are being stored, and what research they are being used in.

Collecting up-to-date information on biohazardous agents and keeping researchers informed of the latest methods for their proper use and control.

Keeping track of research projects on campus which involve biohazardous agents and reviewing the methods and facilities proposed for proper use and control of the agents.

Giving advice on and objective assessment of practices and methods to reduce the risks inherent in use of biohazardous agents.

The committee would require at least one professional staff member, Fox said, to maintain its information and monitor research to see if standards are being met. This staff support would be particularly important if federal standards for biohazard control are set, Fox said.

The committee would probably not wish to engage itself in political problems like the DNA assassination. Fox said, adding that he was reluctant "to get dragged into questions like that. I really don't know how to answer them."

While national concern over biohazards has risen, concern over lab safety at MIT has skyrocketed. A "mini-revolt" of lab technicians and assistants last spring was followed by formation of a Workers' Health and Safety Committee in the Cancer Center and Biology Department — a development many people feel was instrumental in bringing the workers' committee up to date in the formation of the biohazards group.

"The workers' committee draws its authority from the people who are taking the risks — the technicians and assistants who handle these agents," Associate Professor Jonathon King, safety officer for Biology and unofficial head of the workers' group, said. "We're working on raising workers' consciousness about the hazards they face and in forcing the departments to take more care with their workers' health."

"If the official committee does a good job," King said, "there will be no problem. If they don't, then there will be another group watching over them, keeping an eye out for the workers."

Fox said that he did not feel the formation of the workers' committee was "a provocative element" in formation of the Committee on Biohazards. "That group is a very good thing, but it's not the same thing as the faculty group," he said. "The relations between the two committees are going to have to work themselves out over time."

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CASUAL DRESS IS ACCEPTABLE
Insurance costs steady, unaffected by Tang fire

(Continued from page 1)urance companies, which have a reputation for engineering expertise, The insurance companies have "one person here full time for at least a couple of months" when they inspected the Institute, Valentine said.

In addition to paying premiums, the Institute must also pay for all accidents incurring damage below $1000 — the "deductible" for the policy. Valentine said that the maximum damage that could be claimed was $250 only three or four years ago, but with the anti-war "time of troubles" here and at other schools, the insurance companies raised the Institute's deductible to $5000. Despite the increase, the figure is relatively small — Valentine said that every policy-holder was under pressure for highest deductibles, and that "quite a few" schools had their deductibles forced up to $100,000.

The Tang Hall fire will be above the Institute's deductible, despite its relatively small dollar cost, it was the Institute's most expensive fire in five years. The largest single fire loss in Valentine's memory was much smaller in physical terms: a pro-

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Sunday, Dec. 28
Twenty Chimneys 9:00am to 7:00pm
Lobdell Closed

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Dec. 29-30-31
Lobdell — Breakfast 7:30am to 10:00am
Lunch 11:00am to 2:00pm
Dinner 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Twenty Chimneys Closed

Thursday, Jan. 1
Lobdell & Twenty Chimneys Closed

Friday & Saturday
Jan. 2-3
Twenty Chimneys 8:00am to 7:00pm
Lobdell Closed

Sunday, Jan. 4
Twenty Chimneys 9:00am to 7:00pm
Lobdell Closed

Monday, Jan. 5
(Lobdell and Twenty Chimneys resume regular schedule.)

Walker Food Service will be closed from 6:30pm Thursday, Dec. 18 to Breakfast Jan. 5, 1976.

MacGregor and Baker Dining will be closed from 6:00pm Thursday to Breakfast Jan. 5, 1976.

Last day for all Board Plans is Thursday, Dec. 18, 1975.
15 Meal, 19 Meal and Point Plan for IAP and Spring Term are available in all dining units.
A Lincoln Continental which had been reported stolen on Monday at noon was recovered by MIT Officers an hour later in the Albany Street Garage.

A resident of Nichols Dorm surprised an intruder standing in the corridor just outside his room last Saturday morning. The suspect fled successfully, taking with him the student's $50 Texas Instruments SR-50 Calculator.

Four people were the victims of wallet thieves Saturday night during the course of a party held in the Lobdel Dining Room. Little or no door control was practiced during the latter part of the affair. The victims had left their wallets in bags and coats which were left piled on chairs.

Valuable Stolen

The Architecture area of Building 7 was the scene of the larceny of a 35mm camera valued at some $200 last Monday afternoon. The owner left it unattended and realized it was missing after a search some hours later.

Student Special

Ski ½ price Round Top
Plymouth Union, Vt.
$450 $250
All Day, All Day, Weekend, Weekend,
Join the Student Ski Assn. and save another buck on weekends.
4600' and 3100' chairs
1300' of vertical
Plenty of challenging runs
"Big league skiing with friendly people"
GOOD ANYTIME
Bring your Student ID.

Headquarters
DENIM JEANS
LEVI'S LEE WRANGLER
HIKING BOOTS
DUNHAM TYROLEANS
TURTLENECK
JERSEYS
3.98

Central War Surplus
433 MASS. AVE.
Central Square
Cambridge

An Accutron watch valued at $185 was stolen from an unlocked locker in the Alumni Building 7 last Saturday morning. The owner left it there last Monday afternoon. The owner left it unattended and realized it was missing after a search some hours later.

Note: Incidents like the above two are common. Any- one, men or women, using the Athletic facilities should bear in mind that valuables may be left unattended, in sealed envelopes, in the care of the Desk Attendants. Please take advantage of this service whenever possible.

ATHLETIC LOCKER ROOM LARCENIES

Another woman lost her cash and a personal check which she'd left in a bag on a bench in the DuPont Women's Locker Room while participating in a physical education class. The suspect fled successfully, taking with him the student's $80 Texas Instruments SR-50 Calculator.

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Community Notice

Students who plan to be away for the upcoming holiday and IAP periods who lack adequate storage facilities for safeguarding valuable personal property (except bicycles) may leave such items at the Campus Patrol Headquarters (W2-215) for safekeeping. Goods should be boxed or packaged wherever possible. Deposit and pickup periods are 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

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W gymnasts beat Penn, winning first meet ever

By Glenn Ganshiser

MIT's women's volleyball team won the state title and set the stage for a new era at the men's club volleyball team, but the men's club volleyball team (7-1) is still faring very well, just barely edging out a three-game match this season.

The Engineers topped Brown, Rochester, and Hampshire to finish the season with only one of 13 games. MIT is led by hitters Fred Krupets '77, Dave Mahon '78, and Lori Tarn '78. Rick Cartay '77, and Bob Powell '76, and setters Bob Enders '76 and Dave Leighton '76.

MIT's men's club volleyball team (7-1) is also faring very well, but the two teams have not competed against each other yet.

Interest in an Intermediate/Advanced Rock Climbing physical education class is high. The answer to both questions is "Yes," and Bob Mire is at 244-4312, before Thursday, Dec. 18. The class will meet twice a week for three-hour sessions during the first three weeks of March and will require two permanent credits. A pair of slick shoes is required for climbing.

Two straight 9-0 losses did not dampen MIT's morale. The team faces a challenge against Yale on January 24.

The women's swimming and diving team (7-1) is also faring very well, but the team won the state title this fall,'' as a "building year," the return of a very talented sophomore who qualified for a successful year for MIT.

The women's basketball team (2-1) scored a win over Gordon Thursday night, but lost its first game of the year to Worcester Poly Monday, 35-28. The JV squad also lost, 25-24, on a last-second shot.

The team has won on superior height and a hustling full-court pressure. The approach is not fundamental.

The meet's leading scorer was MIT freshman Elaine Sears, who contributed 11 points as the only all-around competitor. Helen Miyajia '77 scored 9.5 points for MIT, followed by first-year Susan Hanson '78 with 8.1.

On the uneven parallel bar Sears was the winner, followed by MIT's Joan Hudgson '77, Karen Chang '77, Lisa Buelles '77, and Eileen Schaffer '77. In vault, Sears and Chang were the event winners followed by a Penn senior place gymnast, Miyajia, and Hanson.

Miyajia placed second on the balance beam (Penn won the event) with fellow going to freshman and coach Helen Chihoski who, due to pre-season injury, could only compete on the beam. Sears took third and was followed by Mary Beth Ward '79 and Hudgson.

Free exercise went to Penn's squad, with MIT only able to manage third on Sears' performances.

The gymnasts' next meet will be against Yale on January 31.

Men's gymnastics has 1-2 week

By John Curcio

The Big Red men's gymnastics team opened its season last Friday night against Boston State and Lowell Tech. Although hindered by the low temperature, the team was able to perform to the best of its ability.

The team won two of the six events, as junior Larry Wang '77 won the floor exercise, scoring 133 points to Lowell's 144 and Boston State's 160. Senior David McGilmackey won both his events, with third going to freshman and co-captain John Comm '77, and sophomore James Federman '78, who placed second in the balance beam.

Men's gymnastics has 1-2 week

They lost only to Harvard in a single game, while Frank Fuller '77, at number three, swept his matches as well.

Wesleyan captured the last event of the meet, the 4x100 yard freestyle relay, with a team's winning time of 47-23-59.

The Engineers gained two more points for MIT, followed by a Penn second place.

Although Coach John Benedicke has characterized '76 as a "building year", the return of a very talented sophomore who qualified for a successful year for MIT.

The women's gymnastics team took on the squash (2-3) team, as prospects are good for an improved season. The team faces Rhode Island College in duPont today.

Men's fencing (2-1) posted two wins this weekend, edging Brooklyn College (0-1) and conquering Coast (2-3). Rich Reimer '77 and Mark Smith '78 won all three foil bouts against Brooklyn, and Arlie Sterling '77 led the epee team, which contributed six points to gain the win for the Engineers.

Despite predictions of an "off" year, MIT appears due to an ankle injury, MIT's men's club volleyball team (7-1) is also faring very well, but the team won the state title this fall, as a "building year," the return of a very talented sophomore who qualified for a successful year for MIT.

At the end of the season, the Engineers scored a win over Gordon Thursday night, but lost its first game of the year to Worcester Poly Monday, 35-28. The JV squad also lost, 25-24, on a last-second shot.

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