Biohazard research committee named

By Mike McNamara

A special committee and staff committee to deal with biohazardous agents used in MIT research has been named, the administration announced this week.

Professor of Biology Maurice Fox has been named to chair the seven-member Committee on Assessment of Biohazards, which will review use of infectious organisms in research and will propose guidelines and standards for control of such agents.

Fox chaired an ad hoc group which wrote a proposal last month suggesting that a faculty group on biohazardous agents - viruses which can cause tumors and organisms which have been modified with recombinant DNA - be established. The proposal called for a "technical advisory committee" with four specific functions:

- Establishing and maintaining a registry of biohazardous agents in use in campus, with information on where and under what conditions they are stored and in what research they are being used.
- Collecting up-to-date information on biohazardous agents, and keeping researchers informed of the latest methods of use and control.
- Keeping track of research projects involving biohazardous agents and reviewing the facilities and methods proposed for use and control of them.
- Giving advice on, and objective assessment of, methods of reducing the risks inherent in the use of biohazardous agents.

The ad hoc group had proposed that a full-time staff member be assigned to the committee to maintain records and monitor research projects. Neither Fox nor Provost Walter Rosenblith, who appointed the committee, could be reached to determine if a staff member, if any, the committee will receive.

The committee will be responsible for enforcement of any federal regulations on biohazardous agents which are handed down, including the guidelines for research with recombinant DNA which a committee of the National Institutes recently completed. Those guidelines, which will replace an earlier voluntary moratorium on DNA-modification experiments, will be announced at a special scientific conference in mid-February, according to an NIH spokesman.

However, the committee will probably not become involved in potentially "political" problems, such as whether research with recombinant DNA should be allowed at all or group who controlled such work. Fox told The Tech in an interview last month that he was reluctant "to get dragged into questions" like those which have arisen about the potential for "genetic engineering" in molecular biology.

"I really do not know how to answer them," he said.

By Gerald Radecki

MIT's week-long observation of Martin Luther King's Birthday was the occasion for a press conference Wednesday at which the Black Students' Union (BSU) expressed dissatisfaction with the selection of the man who is to head MIT's minority student recruitment effort and charged MIT with "intellectual recruitment of black students."

The BSU released a statement calling the process used to find a replacement for John Mims, a black assistant director of admissions who resigned in August, "an attempt to divide the MIT black community."

According to the BSU, John Mack '73 was selected after he, along with the rest of the candidates, was rejected by black student and faculty members who were invited to participate in the selection process.

The BSU, while calling Mack "extremely capable and dedicated," said the he does not have sufficient experience to run MIT's minority recruitment program. BSU officials said that they were afraid Peter Richardson would take over personally the recruitment of black students although he was not in the selection experience in recruiting minorities and zero experience in being a director.

In a reply to the black students' charges, Chancellor Paul E. Gray '54 issued a statement saying that "MIT is fully committed to the recruiting of minority students."

BSU officials also stated that MIT was refusing positively on direct mail recruitment of minority students. "The two outstanding characteristics of this technology is little success and low cost," the BSU's statement said.

"Minority recruiting trips, as are nearly all facets of minority recruiting not, logistically planned and executed, rather they are the result of a patchwork approach," the BSU charged in the press release.

Gray stated, however, that "experience has taught us" that direct mail appeals are the best way to recruit.

A BSU official complained that "on only one year since 1969 has there been a two percent increase in the number of black entering freshmen, which is 31 this year out of 1,100 total entering freshmen. There were about 200 black applicants, the official said, of whom 75 were admitted.

Gray said, however, that five per cent of those minority students whose college board scores indicate they might be successful here" apply. "The equivalent fraction is only about two percent among non-minority students.

The celebration of King's birthday will end today with the showing of the film "Legacy of a Dream" at noon today in the Bush Room.

On Tuesday, another film about King was shown. On Wednesday, there was a "memorial observance" from Lobby 7 to Kenya, where a "memorial observance" featuring speeches, the singing of the "Black National Anthem" and the playing of a recording of one of King's sermons was held.

BSU stages King-week attack

By Gerald Radecki

If you're afraid of national data banks where anyone can find out everything about anyone else just by knowing Social Security numbers, you don't have to be afraid of MIT.

Concern over use of Social Security numbers (SSNs) as identification code raises, in the mind of MIT's Office of Administrative Information Systems (OAIS) projects, the question whether the Institute should continue using SSNs for administrative purposes such as student ID numbers.

There's no forbidding MIT or any other institution from using SSNs as "key numbers," identifiers that allow different administrative computer systems to "talk" to each other.

But concern for privacy of records has been in the news in the last year, especially at schools affected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which opened student records for review and challenge. And so MIT's Office of Administrative Information Systems, in the middle of a long-term upgrading of MIT's administrative computer systems, decided it might be wise to get an opinion on whether those systems should be planned with SSN-IDs or some other ID system in mind.

Legally, OAIS was told, there was no problem. MIT could not require a student to give his SSN, but there was no law forbidding SSN use on IDs.

But Professor of Electrical Engineering Arthur C. Smith, head of MIT's new Committee on Privacy, said that that assessment could change any time now.

"With the way things are going, it may be illegal in a couple of years to use Social Security numbers," Smith explained. "MIT has never had security problems with its internal administrative systems, so we're not really concerned with records being breached."

The full Privacy Committee is expected to discuss the pros and cons within the next few weeks, weighing the mechanical disadvantages of changing to a new system against the privacy benefits to be gained. Smith wouldn't predict what the committee would do, but Paul Sais, OAIS systems development manager, offered a projection: "It looks to me like we won't be using SSNs."

If so, MIT will have taken a big step forward in protection of personal records. Some students and administrators, however, would go even farther to stop widespread use of SSNs by MIT. Special Assistant to the Provost Louis Menand pointed out, for example, that MIT requires more than 4000 applicants annually to submit their SSNs.

"What high school senior is going to refuse and tell MIT it can't have my Social Security number?" Menand asked. "And what possible use can MIT have for the number of someone who isn't even admitted?"

IDS may get new look

By Mike McNamara

If you're afraid of national data banks where anyone can find out everything about anyone else just by knowing Social Security numbers, you don't have to be afraid of MIT.

Concern over use of Social Security numbers (SSNs) as identification code raises, in the mind of MIT's Office of Administrative Information Systems (OAIS) projects, the question whether the Institute should continue using SSNs for administrative purposes such as student ID numbers.

There's no forbidding MIT or any other institution from using SSNs as "key numbers," identifiers that allow different administrative computer systems to "talk" to each other. But concern for privacy of records has been in the news in the last year, especially at schools affected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which opened student records for review and challenge. And so MIT's Office of Administrative Information Systems, in the middle of a long-term upgrading of MIT's administrative computer systems, decided it might be wise to get an opinion on whether those systems should be planned with SSN-IDs or some other ID system in mind.

Legally, OAIS was told, there was no problem. MIT could not require a student to give his SSN, but there was no law forbidding SSN use on IDs.

But Professor of Electrical Engineering Arthur C. Smith, head of MIT's new Committee on Privacy, said that that assessment could change any time now.

"With the way things are going, it may be illegal in a couple of years to use Social Security numbers," Smith explained. "MIT has never had security problems with its internal administrative systems, so we're not really concerned with records being breached."

The full Privacy Committee is expected to discuss the pros and cons within the next few weeks, weighing the mechanical disadvantages of changing to a new system against the privacy benefits to be gained. Smith wouldn't predict what the committee would do, but Paul Sais, OAIS systems development manager, offered a projection: "It looks to me like we won't be using SSNs."

If so, MIT will have taken a big step forward in protection of personal records. Some students and administrators, however, would go even farther to stop widespread use of SSNs by MIT. Special Assistant to the Provost Louis Menand pointed out, for example, that MIT requires more than 4000 applicants annually to submit their SSNs.

"What high school senior is going to refuse and tell MIT it can't have his Social Security number?" Menand asked. "And what possible use can MIT have for the number of someone who isn't even admitted?"
The inevitable future(s) of Cambridge

By Michael McNamee

The inevitable vision of Cambridge in 2000 is an increasingly familiar one: a "colorless, featureless" Massachusetts of starkly and contrasting, a concrete, functional, welfare-based city split into two or three extruding well, the rich and the old, the professional and the blue collar, as it was a century-and-a-half ago, a place inhabited permanently by students and professors, and the small number of people who actually work there: all living next door to each other encased in modern efficiency apartments and story city buildings.

The Real Paper painted a stark picture last week when it asked "Will There Be a Cambridge in the Year 2000?" Statler Rolly O'Connor traced the history of land development and university expansion back to the 17th century, and then of the recent development of the land during the 19th and 20th centuries. He offered his own prediction for the future: division of the city between Harvard and MIT, "between Harvard Square, in East Cambridge, and Kendall Square, in West Cambridge." The character of the "Emerald City" will be replaced by "a city that was once a city," and contrasts, a concrete, functional, welfare-based city.

The tone of the article is distinctly how he feels about Cambridge, or more generally, the nature of the "present and the future." This is that when dealing with historical accounts, there is a need to be careful, not to let one's own expectations cloud the picture. The author makes clear that he is not "seeing the past through the eyes of the present," but rather is trying to understand the historical and cultural context of Cambridge.

The article also discusses the economic and social consequences of the changes in Cambridge. The author notes that the university's growth has led to increased property values and a higher cost of living for residents. He also mentions the importance of "suitable environments" for the institutions, and the potential for "suitable environments" to be developed in the city's future.

Finally, O'Connor seems to suggest that the city's future is uncertain, and that there is a need for creative and thoughtful planning. He calls for a "city that was once a city," that is, a city that is more focused on preserving the city's character and history, rather than on creating a "colorless, featureless" city of concrete and glass.
IAP Blood Drive meets last year’s standard

By Gerald Radack

The Technology Community Association’s (TCA) IAP blood drive ended Wednesday with 324 units of blood collected, "just about where we were last year," according to Blood drive chairman Kelvin Okumura ’77.

Vacation shortage of TCA staffers prevented publicizing of the drive, and only those people who indicated at the fall drive that they wanted to be notified were contacted, Okumura said. A drive is normally held during IAP, Okumura explained, because "generally there is a critical shortage of blood after the Christmas holidays," severe enough sometimes to force postponement of elective surgery.

Although there was fear last year that MIT might lose some of its coverage because of declining blood donations, there does not seem to be a problem this year. "The fall drive was way ahead of last year. This should improve our status, if anything," Okumura said.

MIT community members and their immediate families are currently covered for unlimited blood.

Major blood drives are held at MIT in the fall and spring, with smaller drives during R/O Week and IAP.

There were 1679 units collected in the fall drive and about 1500 collected last spring. Okumura noted that in the past, up to 3000 units have been collected; however, "as far as we know, we are ahead of blood drives in other schools."

The spring blood drive will take place during the first two weeks of March.

for IAP JOGS all majors

STREET EQUIPMENT FOR SALE, 25-50% off on most brands. All carrels with desk and chair; one day delivery, 3D. Delivery charge on defective units. Call Mike, 267-1898, (keep trying).

For rent: Cambridge—mikkey between MIT and Harvard, across the street from Tech, $150-200 per month, all utilities, wall-to-wall carpeting, small kitchen, with dishwasher and disposal, two rooms, fireplace, central air conditioning and heating. Residues may be negotiated. For moderate to high parking, 1 bedroom apt. from $205. 2 bedroom from $275. 3 bedroom from $285. Immense opportunity. Visit college office at 890 Memorial Dr. or call 865-0089.

MULBERRY TYPING STUDIO 804-6868
10 Old Audubon Ave., Cambridge, Md. (in the Real Paper Office Bldg.)

Technician typing, theses, resumes, reports — and just plain typing too! Editing/Proofreading; Transcribing; Secretarial typing, theses, resumes, reports — and just plain typing too! Editing/Proofreading; Transcribing; Secretarial.

Language typing and translation service.

For IAP 2255 if majors, $3.75/hr. plus tuition aid. Call 865-0673 or 888-0506.

I’ve been typing majors and PhD’s full time for 5 years, and still love it! I’d be happy to help you. Call me: 865-3400, (Wesbrook.)

College Computer Representative

Needed to sell Brand name Stereo Components to Students at lowest prices. Help commission, NO investment required. Serious inquiries ONLY! FAD COMPONENTS, INC. 52 Passaic Ave. Fairfield, N.J. 07006. Jerry Diamond 201-227-6814

College Students only

FREE LODGING

Midweek, Non-holidays When you ski

Round Top Rt. 100, Plymouth Union, Vt.
5 mi so of Killington Gondola

Pay for 1st nite 2nd nite free at participating lodges

4600 and 3100 fl. chairs

Student rates $39.50 weekends $52.00 weekdays. Students Ski Asm. members save another buck on weekends. Reservations are required

Call Plymouth Skiing Enterprises

(802) 672-3366

HEWLETT PACKARD

EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWS for June Graduates
(Feb 72 and 13)

MIT STUDENT PLACEMENT CENTER

PERMANENT POSITIONS IN:

DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, MARKETING/SALES ENG. AND MANUFACTURING ENG.

AT U.S. LOCATIONS

ALL DEGREE LEVELS IN E.E., M.E. AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

THE 50TH TECH HIFI GRAND OPENING SALE!

Now there’s a Tech Hifi in Quincy. So now your local Tech Hifi can offer you the purchasing power of 80 stereo stores! Don’t miss the Grand Opening Sale this week at the Tech near you.

For right now, during Tech’s 50th Grand Opening Sale, you’ll find the latest hi-fi components, at prices that are lower than ever before.

The Nikko 7075 stereo receiver incorporates a direct-coupled OCL pure complementary power amplifier that delivers a room-filling 38 watts minimum RMS per channel into 8 ohms from 20 to 20,000 Hz. with no more than 0.5% total harmonic distortion. A unique 5-tweeter high frequency array in each Micro-acoustic FRM-1 loudspeaker solves the problem of high frequency "scaming" inherent in any other conventional loudspeaker. The Sansui 212 -tube drive tunable performs flawlessly. It comes complete with a wood base, dust-cover, and an excellent Stanton 500EE magnetic cartridge.

The lowest price for the highest fidelity:

182 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge 864-HIFI


Basketball has promising 2-1 week

By Glenn Brownstein

Senior Peter Jackson, shown here against Hamilton, was MIT's top scorer last week, scoring 14 points, in the 73-70 win. Also, his three-point shot at the end of the game clinched the win for MIT. Jackson is one of the key players on MIT's team, and his performance last week was important to the team's success.

Spring term 1976

Cross-registration at Wellesley College

Course descriptions, schedules, and registration information are available at the Exchange Office, 7108 (x-1668) and the MIT Information Center, 7-111. Also, check the bulletin board in Building 3.

The insurance helpline: 876-0876.

What's a "No-fault"? How much is apartment insurance? We'll give you the answers to these important questions without giving you a sales pitch. Just call Dick Ramsey any weekday.

W. T. Phelan & Co.

Insurance Agency Inc. Since 1898


ECONO-CAR
OF CAMBRIDGE
905 MAIN ST.


Spring term 1976

Cross-registration at Wellesley College

New England Women's Service

Licensed by the Commonwealth of Mass.

abortion counseling birth control gynecology free pregnancy tests

738-1370

1031 Beacon Street, Brookline

INTERACTIVE LECTURES

Interested work, at your convenience, good pay. For further information, call Karen Houston at 864-6000, x2800.