Technical Notes

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UNIVERSAL OIL PRODUCTS COMPANY (UOP) utilizes the first new technology to be utilized to combat the fast changing world of manufacturing substitutes natural gas through processes known as SRI (SNG). Since the availability of natural and LPG is also quite limited, the next step in the development of additional energy sources is to convert crude oil to SNG and lower liquid fuels such as industrial fuel oil, gasoline, and jet and diesel fuels. Processing facilities would be flexible, capable of accommodating variations in crude and products, and would be similar to present refineries.

Technology is currently available to permit utilization of coal fissile-plain plants that partly used and are currently operating in other countries. The product quality is slightly less than natural gas, and an extension where UOP is working. Production of liquid hydrocarbons at this level would be limited. The feasibility of producing synthetic crude from all was recognized.

By Curtis Reeves

The results of a questionnaire on the MIT-Wellesley Exchange have been analyzed and made available to the Institute community.

Organized by Jane Sasse, Administrator's Assistant to Dean Robert Holden, the report examines every detail of cross registration, from curricular activities to the effects of EAP on a person's decision to take an exchange course.

The 70-page report simply listed the questions from the survey and gave the compiled statistics on each. The survey consisted of three parts: Part I for people who have had some experience with the exchange; Part II for people who had never taken a Wellesley course; and Part III, for all respondents.

According to Part III were listed by groups of exchange participants, other respondents and totals. Of the 993 respondents, 210, or 23.5% had had some experience with the exchange. It is not known how this compares with the campus-wide percentage.

In general, people who had cross enrolled were more enthusiastic than those who had not. For example, Part III, Section 1 asks "Do you think MIT was enriched by the program and for the reasons that people do not take Wellesley courses. Almost a quarter of those who responded to the question said that they thought that taking a Wellesley course was not itself a reason why they liked it so much better. Still, a sign of MIT life, the largest group of those, 32.7%, said that there was never room in their schedules.

The ATEM (Atomic Energy Technology and Research) Center has circulated a report, "The Potential Radiological Implications of Nuclear Facilities in a Large Region of the US in the 1980's," which indicates that radiation from the number and types of nuclear installations that might be located in the Upper Mississippi River Basin in 2000 will amount to only slightly more than one-tenth of one percent of natural background levels. The study includes projected relocations from both nuclear power reactors.

One interesting thing that came out of the study was the reasons that people do not take Wellesley courses. Almost a quarter of those who responded to the question said that they thought that taking a Wellesley course was not itself a reason why they liked it so much better. Still, a sign of MIT life, the largest group of those, 32.7%, said that there was never room in their schedules.

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