Cutting of NASA's budget threatens CSRs stability

By Richard Sale

Proposed cuts in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget are a result of President Carter's anti-inflation program. Some of these cuts have cast doubts on the future of MIT's Center for Space Research (CSR). Ninety-five percent of the Center's funds come from NASA, according to Joe Binns, Assistant Director of the Center.

Institute purchases of land suspended

By Ivan Fong

In response to a request made last Monday by the Cambridge City Council, MIT has agreed to cooperate with a city planning study by the Community Development Department (CDD) by temporarily suspending further real estate purchases in the Cambridge area. Special Assistant to the President Walter L. Mille said MIT would halt future purchases of land until completion of the study, with the exception of some parcels in which MIT already holds purchasing agreements. The study is expected to take six months to a year.

MIT currently owns about 40 acres of the approximately 160 acres in the Cambridgeport Industrial Area to the north of the campus. Nineteen acres were purchased in 1970 when the Simplex Wire and Cable Co. was a major tenant at the site. At the time it was in continuous use in a similar technology to Simplex Wire, stated Mille. Engineering experts from the Polaroid Corporation formed a large research and development facility, but these plans were "put aside" last November due to economic conditions, said Mille.

Since then, MIT has continued to purchase land around the abandoned Simplex site, caused the recent citizens' protest. The Harvard Crimson noted the MIT land purchase on the site is having "a devastating effect on our neighborhood.

The Simplex Steering Committee, a local citizen's group, charged MIT with an arrogant self-interest that transcends any concern for the public welfare," accused MIT of "blighting the neighborhood," and requested the CDD study by the Council. The study will center on the possible rezoning of the area to attract blue-collar industry.

Mille, however, said he believes that "a facility such as Polaroid's would be economically better," even though it would provide fewer blue-collar jobs than a typical warehouse or manufacturing plant.

The city council plans to meet in council chambers at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow. The City Council voted to ask MIT to cooperate in joint urban planning, and (Please turn to page 10)

Kendall repairs may start soon

By Ann Hering

Last year, an article appeared in the Kendall/MIT Subway Entrance News. The statement was that newer days were to begin in November due to economic conditions, said Mille.

According to MBTA officials, the modernization of the Kendall/MIT subway entrance would be renamed the Kendall/MIT subway entrance. The completion of the project has been moved up to 1981. Mit planning

The Kendall Station and then change for an outboard Red Line train. Previously, the entrance had been closed, open by request during evenings and weekends.

In related matters, the MBTA recently closed down the outboard side of the Kendall/MIT subway entrance. Kendall Station is again open on weekdays and weekends. The new change was very inconvenient for east campus residents, who had to use the Kendall inbound subway entrance to ride to the Park Street.

The Kendall/MIT station is a priority item. A spokesman connected with the committee expected that all major research programs other than those associated with the Space Station would have most, if not all, of their funding cut. "The space shuttle will be protected, but other than that, how much of what other projects will be cut depends on budget levels. I really can't speculate," said Binns.

Work on the center is now being done by the CSRs involving analyzing data from previous CSR experiments. "We've had no new start in many years," noted Binns. "We're repaying the benefits of past successes from our heyday - five or six years ago." In the Report of the President and Chancellor, Herbert Bridge, Director of the Center, stated, "The downturn in the number of opportunities...has deepened over the last year. Binns confirmed this, and added, "The cut, will prolong the time until any new start can be made.

"The situation has got to turn around," Binns noted. The Center has ongoing projects funded by sources other than those under budget-cutting consideration, and Binns hopes they will continue. Binns also believes that once NASA and the administration are on firmer ground, "they will need MIT's expertise in our area. Just hope we can work water that long." Should the cuts be approved by Congress, Binns said, "We have many resources to try and affect changes." He cautioned, however, that "We're going to wait and see what comes out.

"Things are being hacked around to the point where we really don't want to speculate," said a spokesman out of NASA's (Please turn to page 10)

Students win Putnam contest

By Jeri-Lynn Storkfiel


According to Richard P. Stanley, Associate Professor of Mathematics and coach of the MIT team, "The undergraduate mathematics teaching world, it's like the Nobel Prize in Undergraduate Mathematics." Stanley added, "It makes a serious difference in being admitted to graduate school...it carries a lot of weight. There is strong correlation between how people do on the exam and how they do in later life.

The Putnam test is administered to more than 2000 students, representing more than 200 colleges and universities. Each member of the winning team receives a $250 prize; the mathematics department of the winning school receives $3000. The Mathematics Department has established a special Putnam Fund with the money. Roberts commented on the six hour test, "The test uses ingenuity and how to put mathematical ideas together. It requires knowledge of calculus, linear algebra, and geometry.

"It's like the Nobel Prize in Undergraduate Mathematics." The test consists of twelve problems. One correct is the average score, while zero is the most common score. A person who scores a 3 or 4 is in the top 10 percent in the country, while anyone scoring above nine is virtually assured of a position in the top five students in the country, according to Stanley. Yet scoring is done on a cumulative basis, as each individual is assigned a numerical ranking. The team score is obtained by adding the individual rankings. The team with the lowest score is declared the winner.

The test was given in Walker Memorial in early December. Team scores just recently became available; individual scores have not yet been released.

The Putnam Mathematical Competition was begun in the mid-1930's.

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College reactor operates under new licensing agreement from commercial reactors. Page 2.

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Foreign study program suffers from obscurity. Page 2.

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Geminis: Broadway's longest-running comedy, has even more to it than puking up egg whites. Page 7.