Nuclear cargo stirs Cambridge

By Tony Zamparuti

Planned shipments of radioactive materials from Oak Ridge, Tennessee to the MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory (NRL) have generated local controversy over the trucking of such materials through the town. Presently, there is a draft for a city ordinance covering the transportation of radioactive materials through Cambridge. The draft arose out of a previous one allowed the lab to store materials irradiated only at its own reactor. Presently, there is a draft for a city ordinance covering the transportation of radioactive materials through Cambridge. The draft arose out of a previous one allowing the lab to store materials irradiated only at its own reactor.

The transportation of radioactive materials is governed by Department of Transportation and NRC regulations. The regulations specify the amount of shielding needed by the materials in transportation, which depends on their size, type, and radioactivity. Most radioactive shipments, including MIT’s, involve materials for medical use. These are generally not intensely radioactive. A few accidents involving the release of radioactivity from shipments occur every year. In 1975 there were 20 accidents out of 2 million shipments. No known serious injury has ever resulted from such accidents.

Clark said that shipping radioactive materials is very safe “in comparison with other hazardous materials, such as gasoline, because there is a great deal of care. When you have to meet Department of Transportation and NRC regulations, I think things are pretty well under control.”

The most hazardous shipments involved with the MIT reactor are those removing spent nuclear fuel for burial. Such shipments have occurred nine times since the reactor began operation in 1958.

Analysis

US “attack” on El Salvador?

By Alan D’Heurle

The sudden increase in El Salvador's anti-American violence has caused much heated debate in the US. Early in December following the brutal murders of four American women, three of whom were nuns, who were working with the Salvadoran poor. On December 5, the Carter administration suspended military aid to the Salvadoran regime pending investigation of the rule of government security forces in the deaths. A week earlier, on November 27, seven leaders of the opposition movement and spent 22 other persons had been shot, tortured, and murdered, all in circumstances which included the active participation of the Salvadoran armed forces. A movement toward negotiation and reconciliation between the junta and the opposition, urged by the Catholic Church, liberal junta member Colonel Adolfo Armando Majano, and the US State Department, was shuttered.

The day after the air strike was announced, a Presidential mission departed for El Salvador, not only to investigate the murder of the four American nuns, as one committee member said, but to study “what kind of government can co-exist in this region now.” By an arrangement between the military and the Christian Democratic Party remaining in the junta, and with the open expressed approval of the US Presidential mission, the regime was reshuffled. A Christian Democrat, José Napoleón Duarte, was appointed President, and Catholic Lucas Almi García was named Vice-president and Commander-in-Chief. Majano, who advocated reconciliation with the opposition, was ousted from the junta by a vote of military strongman, Colonel José Guillermo García, retained his post as Minister of Defense. García controls the hard-line factions in the military, and is thought to have ties in the para-military “death squads.” The failure to force his replacement had been a source of concern.

by the Cambridge Biohazards Committee.

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A rash of unexplained fires struck Boston early this month. Due to sub-freezing temperatures, the aftermath was often speculative: as shown taken at the intersection of Dartmouth St. & Columbus Ave. (Photo by Al O'Connor).

MIT’s research reactor MITR-II.

Limbo frost find dorm rooms

By Laura Faribe

The six freshmen who lived in Ashdown House last term are “all ago and got to their new first choice” for this coming term, according to Barbara Chuck, Administrative Assistant to the Dean for Student Affairs.

Whether the six freshmen will have lower or higher room priorities than the freshmen who resided in the dorms last term will be determined by “the good judgement of the room assignments chairman,” said Chuck.

Three of the freshmen are assigned to Baker House, two to East Campus, and one to Butler House. The dorms are expected to have final room assignments made by Registration Day. One of the freshmen assigned to East Campus, Hilsa Fugi, explained that the room assignments chairman, Chip Palmer ’82, said that there would probably be a choice of rooms, but that he could not guarantee it.

Ed Grenspan ’84, a room assignments chairman for Butler House, said that the freshmen assigned to Butler will be offered a double-occupancy room. “Doubles are very tight rooms,” since most freshmen live in triples, due to a low turnover last term. In a double-occupancy room, the freshmen “will probably have given lower priority next term.”

The six freshmen were charged a rent of $384 for their stay at Ashdown House. Chuck explained that they were charged rent starting November 7, when they turned down spaces at Rand Hall and East Campus. The rent period was from November 7 to December 19, a period of six weeks, so the freshmen were charged $6/2 of the base rent. The base rent was $368—the same rent charged for a MeadGruiner lounge—which is somewhat comparable to where they were in Ashdown,” noted Chuck.

Fugi said he did not move into East Campus when offered a room there in the middle of the term because the freshmen there made it clear that they did not wish to have a roommate. Whenever a room opened up at East Campus, the freshman on the floor were allowed to choose. Not wishing to crowd again, a freshman would discourage any Ashdown freshman from being his roommate, according to Fugi. One East Campus freshman discouraged the Ashdown freshmen by telling them that he always kept his stereo at full blast and that he needed a lot of space.

It’s not that we didn’t want to move into East Campus—we just didn’t want to move into a worse situation than we had here,” noted Fugi. “As soon as a single room opened, they should have offered it to us two of us, instead of letting East Campus freshman un-crowed into the room.”

Most Ashdown graduate students were apathetic to the situation of the six undergraduates residing in their dormitory. “The graduate students didn’t make an effort to get to know us, but they didn’t complain either.”

Interviewed Suresh Subramaniam ’84, another of last term’s Ashdown freshman residents.

Inside

Steeply Dan are back to their old tricks with their latest release, Gaucho. Page 8.

Some of the latest punk 45’s appear on Page 9.

MIT’s hockey and track teams win, page 16.

The Amazing Kreskin is truly amazing. If you missed the show, you’ll have to wait until next time, or see the photos, page 6, and story, page 7.

Speciality theatres around the area are providing latest and hottest entertaining programs. Page 8.