news roundup

Nation

Budget proposal to reduce synfuels support — The Reagan Administration plans to eliminate five major synfuels projects and cut $5.3 billion, or about one third, of the support for the new Synfuels Corporation. In addition, private sponsors will be required to supply 40 percent, instead of 25 percent, of plant building costs, according to the budget draft by the Office of Management and Budget.

AT&T nets record profits — American Telephone and Telegraph Co. reported 1980 profits of $6.08 billion — a new record for U.S. companies. The regulated monopoly announced that profits for 1980 rose 7.1 percent, and expects next year to be even better due to the recently-increased profit margin of 10.37 percent, up from 10 percent.

Mount St. Helens: it again, maybe — Observers reported a half-mile steam plume from Washington's Mount St. Helens yesterday, but scientists predict that it will not erupt.

Space Shuttle launching delayed until April — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced a rescheduling of the test flight for the space shuttle Columbia from March 17 to no earlier than April 3 because of, "an accumulation of minor problems."

Local

Boston School Department pays off mortgage — Boston's public school system faces a possible shutdown next week due to financial difficulties, according to City Auditor Newell Cook. School Department officials, however, say they have enough money to last another month.

Campus

Commoner speaks against defense spending — In a panel discussion Wednesday at MIT, biologist and former presidential candidate Barry Commoner criticized the Reagan Administration for using energy policies as an excuse for increased military funding and Middle East intervention. Commoner was the keynote speaker at the conference entitled "Energy Policy — Impact on the Public's Health" sponsored by the Massachusetts Public Health Association, Inc.

Weather

Partly sunny this morning becoming mostly cloudy tonight. Today will be milder with southwest winds and highs... 30's. For tonight, some flurries or light snow is likely but with no major accumulations. Over-night lows in the low 20's. Then for Saturday, a partial clearing, becoming mostly sunny by afternoon with highs near 30. Cooler Saturday night with lows in the upper teens.

Notes

The R/O Committee is now functioning. The Committee works over the summer organizing events for incoming students and R/O Week. Those interested in working on the Committee should contact Rhonda Peck, R/O Coordinator at x-6771 or leave a message at the Undergraduate Academic Support Office. 7-103.

Applications are now available for the Environmental Intern Program, for graduate and undergraduate students seeking professional paid experience in their fields of study. From Elizabeth Reed in the Career Planning and Placement Office. The deadline for filing applications is March 2.

At an informal meeting yesterday, brainstorming ideas for the orientation manual for new students, the chairmen were discussing the possibilities of including a section on Boston's history and culture, in addition to the usual topics such as housing, dining, and academics. They also discussed the idea of having a section on the nightlife of the city, highlighting some of the best bars and clubs in the area.

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BOSTON GLOBE: The climax of the film... and the films effects... is simply amazing, it's totally absorbing. The most dramatic and novel film to play Boston in ages. An extraordinary picture.

-Bruce McCabe, Boston Globe

BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN

The film lays siege to the senses with a powerful arsenal of images, it will make your capillaries constrict and your pulse thump.

-Alan Berger, Boston Herald American

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By Ivan Fong


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