Experts debate nuclear issues

By Tim Kneale

The future of nuclear energy in the United States was discussed in a forum sponsored by Tau Beta Pi entitled The US Energy Program: Are We Serious? at the Tau Beta Pi's last Thursday evening. Tau Beta Pi, a national engineering honor society, invited seven panels to debate nuclear energy issues for the benefit of the MIT community.

Dr. Bertram Wolfe, vice-president of General Electric's Nuclear Energy Branch, was the first speaker. He began his statement by saying that "nuclear reactors have saved lives and reduced generic damage within the population." He pointed out that the current fuel supply, the importation in causing the US economy severe problems, and forcing America to "stand up" and OPEC. Wolfe also linked the current energy registration program to oil concerns. Nuclear energy, he concluded, is currently unparalleled and "preferable to lack of energy."

Dr. Gordon Thompson, member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, presented the opposing point of view, saying that nuclear reactors are too expensive for utilities to afford to order them at present. Thompson instead favored immediate conservation measures and development of renewable and recyclable energy sources for the longer run.

The government's views were presented by Professor Deutsch, former Undersecretary of the US Department of Energy. "Something must be done" about nuclear power before the US economy can move forward, and Deutsch felt that nuclear energy must be used. However, he asked, "Is it the best way?" Responsibility, he said, will be the key to a successful transition from oil to other energy sources.

Besides Wolfe, Thompson, and Deutsch, the panelists included: MIT Professors J.R. Melcher and T.J. Lee of the Electrical Engineering & Computer Science department; MIT Professor Richard Lesser of the Nuclear Engineering Department; and Mr. Roy O'Connor, Managing Editor of the Real Paper and co-author of a book, "the world's first book on nuclear energy." The first three speakers presented different views on the practicality of nuclear fusion as an energy source. Those three were followed by the other four panelists, and then allowed to field questions from the audience.

Professor Deutsch addressing the audience at the Tau Beta Pi Nuclear Energy Forum Thursday. The panelists asked questions about Nuclear Energy Commission reform, continued survey of public attitudes, proper disposal of nuclear waste, government misinterpretation of public desires, and the engineer's role in the nuclear debate. One of the more provocative questions raised at the forum in the audience was: 'Why do outstanding systems programmers work in Bellevue, WA?'

Microsoft.

Microsoft develops the leading edge in microcomputer systems software. Our BASIC is world renowned. Our new XENIX OS, the microcomputer adaptation of the UNIX OS, has computer companies and others clamoring at the bit. We design state of the art computer systems. And, we need programmers to work on Data Base Systems, FORTRAN, BASIC, COBOL, Pascal, C, Compilers, Graphics, Networks, and many other projects.

Our OEM customer base is a Who's Who of the hardware business (Apple, Radio Shack, Texas Instruments, Intel, Tektronix). As new hardware is developed, new software is spoken. Our research and development is a state of the art organization. We want programmers who can develop your full potential. Whether you like mountains, ocean, desert, rain forest, rivers and lakes all within easy reach. Major cultural, sports, social, and commercial activities in Seattle, just fifteen minutes away. We are looking for outstanding systems programmers—those with intelligence, drive, and a commitment to excellence. We want programmers who will advance the standard in microcomputer software. More information about Microsoft is available at the Placement Center. We will be on campus Wednesday, March 18th, or application may be made by resume, attention: Mr. Steve Ballmer, Assistant to the President.

"UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories. XENIX is a trademark of Microsoft."

Why do outstanding systems programmers work in Bellevue, WA?

Microsoft.

Microsoft develops the leading edge in microcomputer systems software. Our BASIC is world renowned. Our new XENIX OS, the microcomputer adaptation of the UNIX OS, has computer companies and others clamoring at the bit. We design state of the art computer systems. And, we need programmers to work on Data Base Systems, FORTRAN, BASIC, COBOL, Pascal, C, Compilers, Graphics, Networks, and many other projects.

Our OEM customer base is a Who's Who of the hardware business (Apple, Radio Shack, Texas Instruments, Intel, Tektronix). As new hardware is developed, new software is spoken. Our research and development is a state of the art organization. We want programmers who can develop your full potential. Whether you like mountains, ocean, desert, rain forest, rivers and lakes all within easy reach. Major cultural, sports, social, and commercial activities in Seattle, just fifteen minutes away. We are looking for outstanding systems programmers—those with intelligence, drive, and a commitment to excellence. We want programmers who will advance the standard in microcomputer software. More information about Microsoft is available at the Placement Center. We will be on campus Wednesday, March 18th, or application may be made by resume, attention: Mr. Steve Ballmer, Assistant to the President.

"UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories. XENIX is a trademark of Microsoft."

Why do outstanding systems programmers work in Bellevue, WA?

Microsoft.

Microsoft develops the leading edge in microcomputer systems software. Our BASIC is world renowned. Our new XENIX OS, the microcomputer adaptation of the UNIX OS, has computer companies and others clamoring at the bit. We design state of the art computer systems. And, we need programmers to work on Data Base Systems, FORTRAN, BASIC, COBOL, Pascal, C, Compilers, Graphics, Networks, and many other projects.

Our OEM customer base is a Who's Who of the hardware business (Apple, Radio Shack, Texas Instruments, Intel, Tektronix). As new hardware is developed, new software is spoken. Our research and development is a state of the art organization. We want programmers who can develop your full potential. Whether you like mountains, ocean, desert, rain forest, rivers and lakes all within easy reach. Major cultural, sports, social, and commercial activities in Seattle, just fifteen minutes away. We are looking for outstanding systems programmers—those with intelligence, drive, and a commitment to excellence. We want programmers who will advance the standard in microcomputer software. More information about Microsoft is available at the Placement Center. We will be on campus Wednesday, March 18th, or application may be made by resume, attention: Mr. Steve Ballmer, Assistant to the President.

"UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories. XENIX is a trademark of Microsoft."

Why do outstanding systems programmers work in Bellevue, WA?

Microsoft.

Microsoft develops the leading edge in microcomputer systems software. Our BASIC is world renowned. Our new XENIX OS, the microcomputer adaptation of the UNIX OS, has computer companies and others clamoring at the bit. We design state of the art computer systems. And, we need programmers to work on Data Base Systems, FORTRAN, BASIC, COBOL, Pascal, C, Compilers, Graphics, Networks, and many other projects.

Our OEM customer base is a Who's Who of the hardware business (Apple, Radio Shack, Texas Instruments, Intel, Tektronix). As new hardware is developed, new software is spoken. Our research and development is a state of the art organization. We want programmers who can develop your full potential. Whether you like mountains, ocean, desert, rain forest, rivers and lakes all within easy reach. Major cultural, sports, social, and commercial activities in Seattle, just fifteen minutes away. We are looking for outstanding systems programmers—those with intelligence, drive, and a commitment to excellence. We want programmers who will advance the standard in microcomputer software. More information about Microsoft is available at the Placement Center. We will be on campus Wednesday, March 18th, or application may be made by resume, attention: Mr. Steve Ballmer, Assistant to the President.

"UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories. XENIX is a trademark of Microsoft."

Why do outstanding systems programmers work in Bellevue, WA?

Microsoft.

Microsoft develops the leading edge in microcomputer systems software. Our BASIC is world renowned. Our new XENIX OS, the microcomputer adaptation of the UNIX OS, has computer companies and others clamoring at the bit. We design state of the art computer systems. And, we need programmers to work on Data Base Systems, FORTRAN, BASIC, COBOL, Pascal, C, Compilers, Graphics, Networks, and many other projects.

Our OEM customer base is a Who's Who of the hardware business (Apple, Radio Shack, Texas Instruments, Intel, Tektronix). As new hardware is developed, new software is spoken. Our research and development is a state of the art organization. We want programmers who can develop your full potential. Whether you like mountains, ocean, desert, rain forest, rivers and lakes all within easy reach. Major cultural, sports, social, and commercial activities in Seattle, just fifteen minutes away. We are looking for outstanding systems programmers—those with intelligence, drive, and a commitment to excellence. We want programmers who will advance the standard in microcomputer software. More information about Microsoft is available at the Placement Center. We will be on campus Wednesday, March 18th, or application may be made by resume, attention: Mr. Steve Ballmer, Assistant to the President.

"UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories. XENIX is a trademark of Microsoft."

Why do outstanding systems programmers work in Bellevue, WA?