Announcements

All changes in addresses and telephone numbers must be turned into the Registrar’s Office, E19-131, by September 22, 1981, for inclusion in the student directory.

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Students who have been awarded a Student Loan are urged to go to the Bursar’s Office-Student Loans, E19-225, to sign their loan notes before October 1, 1981 or face an interest increase from four percent to five percent. All loan notes signed by September 30, 1981 will have a four percent interest rate.

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Copies of the 1981 edition of the brochure “Environmental Studies at MIT” are available in the Office of the Special Assistant to the Provost, Louis Menand III, Room 3-234, x-7755, and also in the Information Office, Room 7-111.

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The Youthgrants Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities will offer a limited number of awards to young people in their teens and twenties to pursue non-credit, out-of-the-classroom research projects in the humanities. The deadline for submission of proposals is November 16, and funded projects begin the following May. Up to 75 grants will be awarded, offering as much as $2,500 for individuals, and a few groups grants up to $10,000 ($15,000 for exceptional media projects). Youthgrants are intended primarily for those between 18 and 25 who have not yet completed graduate or professional training but can demonstrate the ability to design and perform outstanding humanities research and translate that into an end product to share with others. A copy of the guidelines is available for review at the Placement Office.

Lectures

The MIT Socialist Group will hold a discussion on “The Politics of Health Care: Will there be Health under Reagan?” with Dr. Wayne Leeson on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00pm in Room 4-159.

Activities

The MIT Women’s League is having their annual plant sale on Thursday, October 1, at 9am on the steps of the Student Center.

Off Campus

The current threats to America’s rich heritage of public lands and resources will be the topic of a meeting sponsored by the Sierra Club on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 4pm at Fensall Hall in Boston. Titled, “Washington Takes a New Look at Public Lands,” the meeting will feature Senator Edward M. Kennedy as keynote speaker. The public is invited and there is no charge for admission.

Harvard Professor Stephen Gould will discuss “Creationism vs. Evolution” at the Cambridge Forum, 3 Church Street, Harvard Square, Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 8pm. Free and open to the public.

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Are you interested about sickle cell anemia? September is National Sickle Cell Anemia Month. During the month community activities designed to educate the general public are planned throughout the city. Sickle cell counselors and testing groups will intensify their efforts this month to test populations “at risk” (those of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and African descent), at various locations. Call the Boston Sickle Cell Center for more information at 424-5727.

The Massachusetts Public Health Association is sponsoring a conference, “Genetic Engineering and Public Health” on Friday, September 25, 8:15am-4:30pm at the Department of Transportation Building in Kendall Square, Cambridge. The purpose of the conference is to raise important public health issues that the communities in Massachusetts might face as genetic engineering becomes a larger industry. A draft of a model ordinance for adoption by local cities and towns will be circulated and discussed.

On Saturday, September 26 there will be a Rummage Sale to benefit the Mobilization for Survival. The rummage sale will run from 10am to 4pm in the parking lot of the Old Cambridge Baptist Church — 151 Mass., Cambridge. For more information call 354-0008.

The Engineering and Research Development Companies of the Bell System invite Bachelor’s, Masters and PhD candidates to an informal reception on September 28, 1981 from 4-6 in the Parthenon of the MIT Faculty Club. Join representatives from the Bell Laboratories, Sandia National Laboratories and Western Electric for an informal discussion of career opportunities with the Bell System. Refreshments will be served.

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Analysis

NSF plan will cut red tape at MIT

By Charles Thuer

Cutting red tape is an infrequent and difficult task in modern society. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has initiated a program aimed at performing just this task. The program, jointly sponsored by the NSF and the Association of American Universities, allows various administrative units from specific departments, to set budgets for specific projects without submitting the many forms required previously to gain government approval.

Originally, the scope of grants that were affected by this new policy was limited to those associated with the chemistry departments of nine universities, including MIT. Recently, phase two of this project was initiated and such specific proposals for which the number of participating universities has risen to twelve. According to sources within MIT, the project has been a tremendous success. Professor J. L. Lederer commented that this new system has “cut non-productive red tape.” Research projects can be approved in one day by department heads, much faster than previously. Projects associated with NSF grants is avoided. Researchers are now able to place orders for equipment in advance and thereby save time and money. Inflationary problems are now avoided because expensive apparatus can be bought at the time of the research proposal. Thomas Duff, who is in charge of Program Administration within the Office of Special Programs, emphasized many of the positive effects of the program, saying that both the government and the university were saving time and effort.

The government mainly benefits from the program because less paperwork means saving of money. The federal program directors are better able to track research projects because of the simplifications presented by fewer forms.

Both Duff and Kinsey noted that the program should grow. Duff envisions a larger number of participating universities in the future and Kinsey hoped that other federal agencies, such as the Defense Department, would adopt a similar program. Presently, those universities disciplines which obtain the most NSF grants and therefore benefit most from the program, are in earth and planetary sciences, chemistry, and mathematics.

Election Notice

All undergraduates are eligible to run. For more information, contact the president of your living group or the UA office.