MIT requests right-to-know law exemption

By David Hamilton

MIT has applied for exemption from a Massachusetts law requiring employers to inform their employees about hazardous substances at work, according to Safety Officer Director John M. Fresina. The application will be considered by the Department of Public Health, when the law takes effect, Fresina said. The right-to-know law, according to the Department of Public Health notice, provides employees with three rights to protect them from hazardous substances. The notice states: "...the right to have true or hazardous substances labeled with a chemical name and in some cases a National Fire Prevention hazard label, as well as the right to obtain a "material data safety sheet" for each hazardous substance listed in the Massachusetts Substance List to which the employee may be exposed at work.

The employee also has the right to receive training which concerns the hazardous substances he may be exposed to in the course of employment.

While the application is being considered, research analyst for the Massachusetts Commerce and Labor Committee, said MIT may continue to expose its employees to hazardous substances "because the law is intended to provide information involved in the manufacture of toxic substances, not employment dangers such as those at the Institute."

Fresina said MIT has an excellent safety program, required by the state for a research lab to qualify for an exemption to the law. "We rely heavily on supervisors and on lab safety officers who have worked very well," Fresina added. "We maintain a staff of health and safety professionals, such as industrial hygienists, safety engineers, and radiation protection and biosafety specialists.

"This is the result of a forty year process that has been done right all the time to operate in a safe manner," he said.

Safety mishaps have, however, occurred in the past. Vincent Ralston, an instrument worker at MIT for twenty-one years, discovered in 1980 that he had been inadvertently exposed to radioactive materials in a machine shop, according to the March 24, 1984 issue of Nation.

"His complaints were unattested and answered, and he was forced to go public in order to settle his grievance.

Rastlowsky. However, when reached for comment on the exposure, expressed faith in the legal proceedings and said his problems with the Institute were "all just cases."

Fresina responded with the assurance that research problems "that had existed at the time have been dealt with.

The major impediment to the exemption is the complexity of the application which the state requires. Fresina said the Massachusetts law although similar to comparable laws in other states contains more restrictive requirements.

The paperwork required would create an administrative problem and "take the focus off safety," Fresina said this summer. [The Tech, July 13]

Research analyst Horn, however, opposes the right-to-know law exemption because the accident of Craig C. Sougey, a technician at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory (Please turn to page 2)

Solano seeks state seat

By Edward Whang

"It is unrealistic for me to assume that I can win the upcoming election from the incumbent while campaigning," said Joseph H. Solano ’85, who is a Republican candidate for state representative.

Solano is running for a representative of the Eighth Suffolk District, which includes the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and South End neighborhoods. He is waiting for the Sept. 18 primary to start before he campaign more vigorously.

"The primaries won't actually decide anything, but it will determine which Republican candidate, and the incumbent, is the only Democratic candidate," he explained. The incumbent, Thomas J. Valley, was elected in 1981.

Solano considers himself a progressive Republican. He supports liberal views on social issues, but favoring a laissez-faire economic level...the larceny is horrendous. He is waiting for the Sept. 18 primary, which is waiting for the Sept. 18 primary to start before he campaign more vigorously.

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"It was a very timely arrest," Glavin said.

"I'm coming on the support of hardcore Republicans, students, and independents wanting a freer start," he added. He was endorsed by the Ward Five Republican Committee.

Solano, an Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering major, has been involved in a number of extracurricular activities. "I've told the Ward Five Republican Committee...an issue," Sherwood said.

"Next term I only have to fulfill two requirements, one of them being a humanistic," he said. "I would be a very strong candidate for the Ward Five Republican Committee."

"Although it's impossible for me to raise large amounts of money, I hope to raise some money by asking for donations from acquaintances," he said. 

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Schee is saved a game for a variety of reasons. He was probably not from Cam- puses, but in the minds of some, it just didn't ring true.

"It was a situation where the officer observed what was occurring," Glavin commented. "Students should also call us if they see something suspicious happen- ing."

Jobs available for all students seeking work

By Abdon Ruiz

The good news for students looking for a job this fall is "there is employment for everybody that wants to work," Jane D. Smith, director of the Student Employment Office, said this week.

Most of the work available is non-technical such as filing and typing. Smith said there are approximately 250 job openings posted at the Student Employment Office. About 140 of those jobs are available to students, 20 of them on campus. There are around 10 technical job openings up to no good.

More Campus Police officers were called to search the vicinity for the escaped suspect, but they could not find him.

"The guy [who escaped] may have been confused: he was spotted going west, then east. Some- how, he had cut back into cam- puse, where he did not want to be.

"It was a very timely arrest," Glavin said.

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The employment office's primary duty is to find and post job de- scriptions and telephone numbers of prospective employers on the bulletin boards in the office. It is the student's responsibility to find a job himself."

"The employment office has found employment for those students who really need a job," he said.

The employment office is not the only source of employment (Please turn to page 2)