NSF Review Puts Funding For Haystack in Jeopardy

By Ramy A. Arnaout

As astronomers at MIT's Haystack Observatory prepare grant proposals for submission next month, high among their concerns will be the effects of last summer's NSF ranking of Haystack, last out of five. The NSF ranking has jeopardized this year's grant award to the observatory and may reduce future operations, researchers said.

The ranking came despite a $1.5 million, NSF-funded telescope and antenna upgrade. The upgrade was to be in its final stages when the review took place.

While the review committee said that "there was some excellent science" going on at Haystack, faculty and students agree that the last ranking was because the telescope upgrade was still in progress.

"When the NSF panel arrived, we had had only one 3- or 4-month period of "real life" tests of the upgrade," said Joel Kastner, an astronomer who has been working with the new antenna.

"That's definitely not enough time to evaluate the impact of the upgrade," said Dr. R. Alan McNaughton, director of Haystack.

Updates to the project's technical requirements were made at the time of the review, but the full implications of the NSF ranking are not yet clear.

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Seminar Seeks to Stamp Out Racism on Campus

By Rishi Shrivastava

The Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs sponsored a seminar calling "Eliminating Racism" last Saturday. The seminar aimed to help students and staff deal more effectively with race relations and to strive towards eliminating racism on campus, said Aydia Mithen, assistant dean for counseling and support services. "We are training students to work as UROP evangelists in the MIT community — as part of the effort to solve the funding problem facing the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. "These people are going to go out into the community to motivate and inspire," Tsao said.

Staff members of the Dean's Office ran the seminar along with other staff members from area universities. Susan D. Allen, adviser to the Student Council and sponsored by the Graduate Student organization, was also very pleased with the seminar.

The Haystack Observatory

Tao, Chitaley Organize UROP Lobbying Effort

By Jeremy Hylton

Undergraduate Association Vice President Anne S. Tao '94 is organizing small groups of students to work as UROP evangelists in the MIT community — as part of the effort to solve the funding problem facing the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. "These people are going to go out into the community to motivate and inspire," Tsao said.

Staff members of the Dean's Office ran the seminar along with other staff members from area universities. Susan D. Allen, adviser to the Student Council and sponsored by the Graduate Student organization, was also very pleased with the seminar.

The Haystack Observatory

Grocery Shuttle To Start

By Daniel C. Stevenson

A grocery shuttle for MIT students organized by the Graduate Student Council and sponsored by Laverde's Star Market will begin operation this Saturday. The shuttle will pick up students at several MIT locations for the 15 minute trip to the Medford store.

David B. Cuthbert organized the grocery shuttle, after raising the issue at the January GSC meeting. "I contacted several of the local retailers," Cuthbert said. Stop and Shop and the Star market chain both turned down the offer, he said.

Cuthbert then contacted Frank Lavende, owner of Lavende's Market in the Student Center and the store in Medford. Lavende agreed to fund the shuttle.

Lavende's Star Market is a full service supermarket in a shopping center that includes produce, deli, and other traditional sections. It honors Star specials and accepts Star coupons, Lavende said.

The store is "less expensive than Cambridge," according to Lavende. In prices are lower than prices at Purity Supreme and Stop and Shop in Cambridge, he said.

Positive student response

Cuthbert distributed a survey about the grocery shuttle in January. The survey asked about potential use of the service and if students were willing to pay for it. Cuthbert received over 250 positive responses to his survey, and many students said they would spend a dollar more for the shuttle, he said.

A second survey found that 85 percent of students interested in the shuttle favored the arrangement with Lavende, who offered to cover the expenses of the shuttle, estimated cost at $120 to $150 per week, Cuthbert said.

Howard D. Lewis '95, a Beaver resident who buys most of his own food, said that it is inconvenient to carry groceries back from the T stop after grocery shopping off-campus. The grocery shuttle would be useful, Lewis said, as long as it was able to