IS Works to Address Security of MITnet

By Bryson Kidd

Information Systems has made some changes to MTInet that will help users of MTInet keep their data and passwords secure, said Joanne Costello, manager of network support for Distributed Computing and Networking Services. The telnet program used to access Athena accounts has been updated to allow users to "safely telnet to Athena without their passwords traveling over the network," she said.

The new telnet program encrypts a user's password when it is initially sent over the network, Costello said. Only a system with the correct decryption key can access that data, she said.

A secure telnet program, known as kerbetelnet, is available for Macintosh, Sun workstation users and the Athena workstation, Costello said. A version of the program for IBM PCs and compatibles will be available once MIT resolves licensing issues, she said.

Security on MITnet will be further safeguarded with an additional data encryption service, Costello said. Over the summer, MIT issued a new, free version of the popular encryption program PGP (for "pretty good privacy"), she said.

"PGP is a high-security cryptographic software application which allows people to exchange files or messages with both privacy and authentication," Costello said.

The system currently requires a user to separately encrypt and send a file, Costello said. To remedy this, "we hope to make available packages which will provide a seamless integration of PGP with the systems used on campus," she said.

GSC Revives Grocery Shuttle on Trial Basis

By Jung Yoon Chel

The Graduate Student Council is reviving a grocery shuttle to bring students to LaVerde's Star Market in Medford, a full-service grocery store, according to Jeffrey J. Sriver '93, GSC vice-president. The shuttle, sponsored by Frank LaVerde, the owner of LaVerde's Market in Medford, is being sponsored on a four-week trial basis.

The shuttle will be available for all graduate and undergraduate students and their spouses, Sriver said. Participation in the shuttle will be on a first-come, first-served basis, Sriver said. A wash public committee will also have contributed to the failure, he said.