Quick News...

October 9, 1998
P.A. Moore, Director's Office

Pulling the Plug

Staff at the Computer Services building held fond farewells for their favorite co-workers recently. Yes, there was a party for Ago as he goes off to work for private industry. The other party was for VM. The plug was irrevocably pulled on Monday, Oct 5.

Those Cheeky Critters

Three customers wandered up the cafeteria steps about 4 pm on Wednesday afternoon looking for a snack. Finding the door closed, the three deer then munched on the grass on the Main Quad before meandering off. Two-legged critters in 4-wheeled vehicles should be on the lookout as deer take to open areas in search of food and water.

Homecoming Weekend

Be mindful of traffic and congestion this weekend as alums return to campus for Homecoming festivities. Among the seminars and special events, Burton Richter will give a presentation on SLAC to the Trustees. There is also a football game at 2 pm Saturday. Any advice on how to muster the defense is appreciated.

National Science Policy Report

In a briefing to the AAAS, Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) outlined several theses used in writing his report on National Science Policy. The first was that "our science policy is outdated," and more of a budget policy. Another thesis was that "the American public doesn't understand science and its practice." The public's knowledge of science, Ehlers said, is limited to more of a collection of facts than an understanding of the scientific process. His third thesis was that "scientists are politically clueless." He stressed the need for scientists to become aware and involved in the political process. Finally, Ehlers called for a new science/mathematics education strategy. The full report can be seen at [http://www.house.gov/science/science_policy_report.htm](http://www.house.gov/science/science_policy_report.htm)

Long Lines and High Prices

Those of us who are old enough to remember October of 1973 will recall the oil embargo which disrupted US and world energy markets. Where are we now, 25 years later? OPEC now accounts for 43% of oil production, down from 55%. The US has a strategic petroleum reserve of 563 millions barrels of crude oil, 57 days of net US petroleum imports. Energy consumption of all fuels per dollar of the Gross Domestic Product has dropped buy a third. Per capita use of petroleum in America has dropped, but oil imports have risen to record levels, well above those seen 25 years ago. From [http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/25opec/anniversary.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/25opec/anniversary.html) DOE's Energy Information Administration

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Last updated by jmasek on October 8, 1998.