

Calendar

Wednesday, December 22

3:30 p.m. DIRECTOR'S COFFEE

BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over

THERE WILL BE NO ILC R&D MEETING TODAY

Thursday, December 23

Happy Holidays!

Half-day at Fermilab

Friday, December 24

Happy Holidays!

Lab closed

Wilson Hall Cafe

Wednesday, December 22

Italian Wedding with Meatballs

Diner Style Patty Melt \$4.75

Mediterranean Style Baked Fish \$3.75

Beef and Broccoli \$3.75

Greek Chicken Panini with Feta Cheese \$4.75

Sicilian Style Pizza \$2.75

[Wilson Hall Cafe Menu](#)

[Chez Leon](#)

Weather



Mostly Cloudy 11°/-1°

[Extended Forecast](#)

[Weather at Fermilab](#)

Current Security Status

[Secou Level 3](#)

Search

Predictions for 2004: A Winning Record for Witherell



Santa visited Chez Leon last week. Director Mike Witherell asked for \$10 million for research at Fermilab. (Click on image for larger version.)

One year ago I wrote an article for Ferminews predicting the events of 2004 at Fermilab. I thought it would be interesting to go through those predictions a year later and see how they hold up.

Some are pretty sure bets; some are more speculative, and at least one is a long shot. I will let you decide which prediction falls into which category.

[read more](#)

Not A Creature Was Stirring...



When the Fermilab Technical Division opened this magnet spool, it found evidence for a stirring mouse. (Click on image for larger version.)

...except for a mouse that found its way into one of the superconducting magnets in Fermilab's Technical Division, where Fermilab Engineering and Fabrication Technician Dan Smith discovered it a few eves before Christmas. Employees in the Technical Division had planned on repairing the 1,200-pound magnet, and got a surprise when they discovered a vacuum space filled with fur and feathers.

"On the outside of the magnet, there's a stainless steel box," said Smith. "You have to grind off the weld joints, and there are a good couple miles of welds - literally. Inside there's liquid Helium, and then an insulating vacuum. And that's where we found it."

No one actually ever saw the mouse itself, but the 'H' spool was jammed with enough bird feathers to make a small pillow - or a cozy nest. "We still have a bird head, too," said Sergio Sanchez of Fermilab's Technical Division, who

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Santa also visited Beth Witherell and the Day Care Center last week. (Click on image for larger version.)

Narrow Band Radio Migration at Fermilab



As most Fermilab radio users already know, several of the lab's VHF radio networks will be migrated to a new standard as mandated by the DOE and National Telecommunications & Information Administration. Six of the seven networks -- Security Admin., Roads & Grounds, FESS/Operations, Taxi Dispatch, PPD Repeater and the Miscellaneous channel -- either already have been or will be transitioned after hours between December 22 and January 5. Radio users will be notified by the Telecommunications Office or the lab's contractor, United Radio, when they should switch to their narrow band channels and discontinue use of the previous wide band channels.

The phased transition of the remaining network for Fire and Security will begin

suspected that the mouse had made a nest out of the bird feathers. The bird head was relatively undamaged, with beak intact.

"It chewed through the insulation, as well," Smith said of the mouse, although the damage did not extend beyond minor repair work. "But he won't be coming back. There's nothing left for him to get into. In the 30 years I've been here, I've never, ever seen something like this."

Announcements

Fermilab Today Holiday Schedule

Fermilab Today will go on vacation starting Thursday, December 23 and will return on Monday, January 3. The classified ads that were posted on December 17 will remain up until Friday, January 7. *Fermilab Today* hopes you have a happy holiday!

Cashier's Office Holiday Schedule

The Cashier's Office will be closed December 23, 2004 thru January 03, 2005.

Payroll Department Holiday Schedule

The Payroll Department will be closed December 23, 2004 thru January 2, 2005.

Travel Office Holiday Schedule

Please note the Travel Office will be closed on the following days for the holidays: Dec 23, Dec 24, Dec 30 and Dec 31. Please make plans to pick up airline tickets and arrange travel on dates other than the above. The Travel Office staff wishes you all a Happy Holiday Season!

Lederman Science Center Holiday Schedule

around 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 6. This transition will take several hours to complete, and while users will experience some reduced audio levels during the transition, network continuity will be maintained. It is recommended that Fire and Security personnel listen for the announcement stating that the transition has begun. Fermilab's radio contractor will then proceed to the Fire Station and Security Office to program all portable units for narrow band compliance. Following the network cutover, there will be some brief radio tests and certain units may be asked to respond; however, most users will not be required to participate. A final announcement will be made once the programming of all associated equipment is finished and the cutover is complete.

For further information, contact the Telecom office at ext. 5411 or Telecom@fnal.gov.

In the News

From SpaceRef.com - December 18, 2004 Scientific Balloon Circles South Pole on Search for Antimatter

An international team of scientists has launched a high-altitude, balloon-borne instrument from Antarctica to search for antimatter, which is among the rarest and most elusive types of particles in the Universe.

[read more](#)

The Lederman Science Center will be open today from 8:30 - 3:30 pm. and closed December 23 and 24. The following week the Center will be open December 27, 28 and 29 from 8:30 - 4:00 pm. and closed December 30 and 31.

International Folk Dancing

International Folk Dancing will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, December 23 and 30, at the Geneva American Legion Post. Info at 630-584-0825 or 630-840-8194 or folkdance@fnal.gov.

[Upcoming Activities](#)