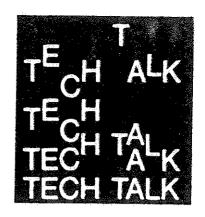
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



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The News and Views section of a recent issue of Nature magazine calls attention to an "intriguing way in which the laws of quantum mechanics may be modified so as to incorporate the second law" of thermodynamics. This "adventurous scheme which seeks to incorporate thermodynamics into the quantum laws of motion," the magazine said, "does have the merit of hanging together." It was proposed by a group of theoreticians led by MIT mechanical engineering professor Gian Paolo Beretta and nuclear engineering professor Elias P. Gyftopoulos in two articles published in Nuovo Cimento B in 1984 and 1985. According to the article in Nature, "whether the modification proposed is sufficient, only time will tell, but the objective seems well worth the trouble Beretta et al have taken. There will be many who say that what they have done is strictly unnecessary. But this is a field in which the proof of the pudding is in the eating."