Fire Destroys Roof
At Pi Lambda Phi

By Frank Dabek

A successful rush at the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity ended on a sour note when a fire broke out on the roof of the house at 450 Beacon St. last night.

No one was injured in the fire, but the damage to the house has forced residents of the top two floors into temporary housing at Ashdown House.

The fire was reported at 11:38 p.m. on Monday night, said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin. The initial report stated that the fire had been spread by the wind from papers that were being burned on the roof, but Marcus J. Ottaviano '97, president of PLP, denied that anything was being burned. He reported the burning paper to the CPs because he "had been given misinformation," he said. Ottaviano would not speculate further on the cause of the fire.

Both sources agreed that those present attempted to put out the fire with extinguishers but were unsuccessful, after which the Boston Fire Department was called and the house evacuated.

Most of the house members were celebrating downstairs the closing of the house for rush when some "saw that the roof was on fire," Ottaviano said. After the fire could not be extinguished the residents "got the hell out," he said. Ottaviano added that the fire department would not speculate further on the cause of the fire.

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After hundreds of reports of bad reactions, including 17 deaths, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is moving toward controlling sales and distribution of herbal products containing ephedrine, the agency's top official said. During a two-day meeting that began Tuesday in Washington, D.C., the agency's Food Advisory Committee is reviewing scientific data that it hopes will help it decide whether adverse health events, including deaths, linked to herbal supplements containing the stimulant ephedrine. The main target of FDA action is an herbal compound called ephedrine, which is included under some names in some herbal products and over-the-counter drugs. Because it is officially viewed as a drug, herbal products containing ephedrine have been essentially regulated by the FDA. In some cases, ephedrine-containing products are promoted as aphrodisiacs, energy boosters or even legal substitutes for illicit drugs.

Until recently, ephedrine-containing products were easily available at supermarkets, health food stores and in vending machines in gas stations. But now 21 states have moved to restrict sales, or at least to require warning labels.

**Fugitive American Financier Vesco Gets 13-Year Sentence in Cuba**

WASHINGTON

American financier Robert Vesco, one of the most publicized figures to be convicted in a U.S. court, was sentenced to 13 years in a Cuban prison Monday for economic crimes against the government of Fidel Castro.

The announcement was made by the official Cuban media in Havana. Vesco's Cuban wife, Lolina Alfonsa Laceria, was sentenced to nine years in prison for helping Vesco. She is being held at the maximum-security Villa Marista prison.

Vesco, 60, who could have received a 20-year sentence, spent years on the run after escaping from the U.S. after the 1979 revolution.

Many of Wilson's cuts directed at California's nearly 2 million welfare recipients.

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Many of Wilson's cuts directed at California's nearly 2 million welfare recipients.
Jackson, Liberals Offer Tepid Endorsement of Clinton's-onlyWrapper
OPINION

Impatient Media Wrong to Indict Jewell

Column by David S. Kelman

Monday, Barbara Jewell, mother of Richard Jewell, made a plea in President Clinton to clear her son’s name with regard to the Olympic Park bombing. You remember Richard Jewell, don’t you? Briefly considered a hero in the saga of the Olympic Park bombing, his image was quickly turned into that of a discredited, villainous bomber. In my home-town of Atlanta, the coverage was especially fierce. The newspaper ran pages of stories about every detail of the hero now quickly assumed to be a phony. Today, it appears that Jewell will never be charged with anything wrong-done. I think this affair provides a good opportunity to illustrate what I find to be some mildly disturbing trends in American society today.

Don’t get me wrong; Richard Jewell was no perfect angel. His past record in security and law enforcement was not that of an Eagle Scout. At his previous security job at northern Georgia’s Piedmont College, he was known by some to be oversensitive and on a power trip. He even ran into trouble by impersonating an officer in the Atlanta area. Before his Piedmont College job, when he actually was a police deputy in a northern Georgia county, he crashed a parked car while driving drunk with another police officer. This less-than-spotless record, relates to one of points of my concern. Yes, Jewell was not perfect, but I found it a stretch to instantly treat him as the arch-villain against Christ himself, as many did. Maybe I could see him hurting kids to keep their shoes while playing at the park; fools getting chucked in a bomber’s bomb. If anything, Jewell wanted control, not death and false heroism. The reason that Jewell even became a suspect, however, was because the president of Piedmont College didn’t want Jewell’s name to become public. The president of the college suggested to the FBI that Jewell should be thoroughly scrutinized. That’s all it took.

Many in the press and society filled in the rest and accepted it all with little real evidence. It was so easy to do because Jewell was someone who did not have a record which much of society approved, and arguably righty so.

I think many traits too far, however, it seems that the trend this situation highlights is a willingness to quickly assume that one type of person and any person that person could be capable of any other kind of crime. In this case, there were no shades of disapproval, no perceived wrong-done. Being a lousy cop equaled being an assumed murderer.

Another problem highlighted by these events is what seems to be a lack of real understanding of how our judicial system is intended to work. Richard Jewell was at worst a suspect, something more. He was not arrested, he was not indicted, he was not tried, he was not found guilty. At the stage of argument, I found it a stretch to work this sort of truth into the mainstream. The judicial process is slow, not fast. Sometimes, there are possibilities that a person does things doesn’t mean the person is capable of doing all sorts of bad things. I find it disturbing by the total character, not just some of their views, and use that as a guide to predicting their actions.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author’s signatures, address-es, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express permission of the author. Letters, to the editor, should not exceed 250 words in length. Condensed letters are not encouraged; shorter letters will be given higher priority. On the whole, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submission in plain text format are encouraged, and may be mailed to publishing@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before of publication.

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Off Course
By Hugo

FREDDY HOMES IN...
HI, MARRY. I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO HELP YOU MOVE IN...

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP WITH YOUR BAGS?
SURE. I'LL GO OUTSIDE AND GET THEM!

THE TECH Page 5
August 28, 1996
COMICS

Damned for Life
by Jessica Wu

OH MY GOSH NEWTON! TODAY'S THE DAY WE GET OUR HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS!

THE RESULTS OF THIS LOTTERY WILL AFFECT THE REST OF MY LIFE AT MIT! I MEAN, WHAT IF I GET RANDOM?!

OH, I'M DOOMED! I'M DOOMED!

I'M DOOMED... I'M DOOMED...

YES!

WHAT?

WHAT DID YOU GET?

I GOT NEW MAIL.

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IIT:...
Brown also leaves a daughter, Sydney, born in 1938.

Brown left for the University of Michigan in 1927 and received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from what was then known as Workingman's College, now the Royal Melbourne Technical College, with three diplomas - in fundamental sciences like physics and mathematics. He entered MIT as a junior in 1929 on the strength of his college credits and received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering with a concentration in automatic control systems, computer technology, and the numerical control of machine tools. During World War II, he worked to develop automatic fire control and aiming systems for guns used by the U.S. military.

"Gordon Brown influenced the directions of engineering education in the past 50 years more than any other single person," said Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Paul L. DeVore of SED '50, chair of the Department of EECS.

In 1940, Brown founded the Servomechanisms Laboratory at MIT where work was done that led to the development in the late 1940s of the first major digital computer, Whirlwind. After the World War II, the Whirlwind computer became part of the Lincoln Laboratory and its development of the SAGE system of air defense for North America.

The field of system dynamics, which grew out of feedback concepts pioneered in the Servomechanisms Laboratory, deals with the feedback dynamics of social and natural as well as physical systems.

Brown puts computers in education

Brown positioned himself as a leader in the modernization of engineering education later in his life.

In a local school district in Tucson where he lived during his retirement, Brown began the movement to put computers in education, the work that he would become famous for in his later years. He started by loaning software to an eighth-grade teacher of biology in a local junior high school to demonstrate how feedback concepts could enter the classroom.

Brown then negotiated with Apple Computer, Inc., for a gift of $100,000 worth of computers for the same teacher's classroom. He then brought the school principal and superintendent.

In 1981, Brown launched a program to restructure and revise the entire electrical engineering curriculum. He worked to base teaching more firmly in fundamental sciences like physics and mathematics.

Later, when he became dean of the School of Engineering, Brown extended to other engineering departments the same principles of curriculum revision and pushed toward interdisciplinary research.

Brown, who served as chair of the faculty in 1951 and 1952, retired in 1974.

Brown was born in 1907 in Australia and at the age of 18 graduated from the Melbourne Grammar School. He received a B.S. in electrical engineering from the Royal Melbourne Technical College, with three diplomas—in electrical, mechanical, and civil engineering.

He entered MIT as a junior in 1927 on the strength of his college credits and received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering in 1931. As a graduate student, he served as a research assistant and received a master of science degree in 1930 and doctorate of science in 1938.

Brown was appointed an assistant professor in 1939, associate professor in 1941, full professor in 1946, and Institute Professor in 1973.

Brown and his wife, Jean Alfred Brown of Tucson, would have observed their 60th wedding anniversary on the day of his death.

Brown also leaves a daughter, Sydney B. DeVore of Tucson, a son, Thomas L. DeVore, and two grandchildren, Samuel C. DeVore and Laurel L. DeVore.

Memorial services will be held at a school in Tucson and at MIT. The dates will be announced.
The Academic Expo showcases majors, Huning said. "Eight minutes doesn't give me much flexibility," Bunz said. While the Core Blitz is kept short to avoid boring the freshman audience, "personally I would like a little more time, and it would be a little more useful for the students," Professor of Mathematics Arthur P. Mattuck will help freshmen choose which calculus classes to take. Last year, there were problems with students switching between calculus classes 18.01 and 18.01A, Mattuck said. Almost everybody who switched late invariably failed, Mattuck said. This year there will be rules for switching between the classes.

The Academic Expo showcases majors. The Academic Expo will be held in Johnson Athletics Center from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Each department and special programs like Women's Studies will be set up in a format similar to the Activities Midway, Huning said. Freshmen can pick up literature representing their departments, just them- selves, Huning said. The faculty, a lot of them being freshmen advisers, will talk about life at MIT and not their research. It is a chance to talk to professors about more than just academics.

One program that will be missing this year is the Freshman Explorations. The Explorations were tours and seminars that introduced freshmen to various topics from how admissions worked to what the Plasma Fusion Center does.

"There just wasn't enough interest in them," Huning said.

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The Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program

Next deadline: September 20

The Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program was created to give members of the MIT community the opportunity to create, learn about and participate in the arts. The Grants Guidelines are now on line, at: [http://web.mit.edu/arts/www/grantguide.html](http://web/mit.edu/arts/www/grantguide.html)

Application forms are available at the MIT Office of the Arts E15-205 or by interdepartmental mail. Contact Susan Cohen, Director of the Council for the Arts at MIT at 253-4005 or [cohen@media.mit.edu](mailto:cohen@media.mit.edu) for more information.
The American Jiu Jitsu group performs at their display at yesterday's Activities Midway.