Alarms fail to warn of fire

By Barb Moore

If all dormitory buildings at MIT caught fire, most people in it would not evacuate. Several years ago, fire could have been attributed to the fact that many alarm systems worked inconsistently, if at all. Recently, though, most dorm and Institute students have had new or remodeled fire alarms installed.

Previously, the dormitory fire alarms could be set off or broken by impact, smoke, or moisture in the systems. In 1968-69, the fire alarms in Baker House did not go off when tested, which spurred an overall remodeling of the dorm alarm systems. The new systems are not affected by stray hockey pucks and incompleteunciats, as were the last ones.

Ms. Lutman-Johnson, house manager, stated that, in the past, she has not been awakened by the alarms. She fears that in a fire situation, many residents would sleep through the alarm. She would "like to see something done" to improve this situation.

The following poem led Campus Patrol to the recovery of a statue of Francis Walker (pictures below) which disappeared from Walker Memorial a week ago last Friday. When the bust disappeared from the building, Dean Richard Sorenson received a copy of the poem and a key to a locker.

If you wish a Walker bust, there is in a locker. The poem:

"Campus Patrol. The Campus Patrol then went to below) which disappeared from Walker. Memorial a week ago last Friday. When the bust disappeared from the building, Dean Richard Sorenson received a copy of the poem and a key to a locker. He turned the poem and the key over to the Student Manager, Mr. Conner Moran, agreed with the possibility that the alarms would not be recognizable as fire alarms, if sounded in the student center. Last spring, when an alarm was activated in the center, members of The Tech staff could not distinguish it as a fire alarm, backing this theory. Fire drills are conducted in the student center, which could help alert people to the fire system. These drills and testing of renewed "dead spots" in the center would be beneficial, noted Mr. Moran.

Another problem common to MIT is false alarms. Professor Jim Brust, house-master of Burton House, said that there have been three false alarms in Burton since the beginning of the term. Also, the fire alarms once activated by a fault in the system. The Chaplain caused water in the pipes. McCorkle Hall has not had any problems so far this year, and generally the false alarm situation has improved. Every false alarm costs the Cambridge Fire Department approximately $500.

The implications are that testing of the systems is needed, to determine properly covered areas, and that the fire drills would help the awareness of the MIT community of these problems. One proposed reason for the general disinterest in fire alarms is that the residents believe that the dorms are well fire-proofed or do not consider the possibility of a real fire. With continued concern and attention, effective alarms and reactions to alarms can be achieved.

Bust recovered from locker

Admissions suggests student school visits

Girl killed, student hurt in Mass Ave accident

Mass auto insurance, explained.

Girl killed, student hurt in Mass Ave accident

The student role in this process would be a visit to their high school sometime during the Christmas vacation or IAP. The idea is to return to the school and informally talk about MIT, trying to paint a more accurate picture than do the college guides.

For students who are unsure of what to do or be comfortable about discussing MIT, the admissions office staff has reserved office hours 2-4 pm on Thursday, December 14. The staff will try to talk out any problems that students face.

The office will provide introductory admissions materials if the students wish to take that. If their school. If any student is asked a question which totally stump him, he can always take the name and address of the inquirer and refer the question to an admissions officer when he returns from vacation.

An accident at 77 Massachusetts Avenue last Friday claimed the life of a Simmons coed and seriously injured an MIT student.

Richard Haaneman '74, a Course XVIII major from Pitts- burough, was crossing Mass. Ave, at the main entrance with Helen D. Granache of Simmons at approximately 9:30 pm last Fri- day when the pair was struck by a car. Granache was pronounced dead on arrival at Cambridge City Hospital, and Haaneman was listed in poor condition.

Officials from the Cambridge Police and the Registry of Motor Vehicles investigated the accident, but were unavailable for comment. Information sources stated that the couple was struck by a southbound auto and were thrown under a car heading north. Witnesses in Harvard, however, reported that Haaneman and Granache were struck by a track and subsequently trapped under a Corvette. The accident is still under investigation.

Haaneman was operated on at Cambridge City Hospital for a broken neck and arm. Sources at the hospital said that although he was in Intensive Care, he was in no immediate danger; he will be in traction for six to eight weeks.

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Steady state before system failure

By Storm Kaufman

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