City police harassing workers on picket line

By Gerald Radack

MIT's Department of Architecture is dedicated to helping solve today's architectural problems under the leadership of Nicholas J. Habraken, who will become chairman in next August, according to Prof. Donocen Lyndon, the present chairman.

"I think we have a very good beginning as compared to other programs in architecture" in the ability to build a theoretical base for the field, as well as to solve practical problems relating to people's use of urban space, Lyndon said in a recent interview.

In addition to providing professional training for architects, the department has expanded since its inception in 1865 to include studies in environmental design, the history, theory, and criticism of art and architecture, photography, film, and building technology. The department offers undergraduate degrees, professional degrees, and some graduate degrees.

Lyndon, who has been at MIT since 1967, says that some of the major changes that he has seen occur are the formation of an environmental design group as a joint program with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the addition of a film program, along with sharp increases in enrollment — the total number of students in the department has doubled.

One of the things that makes the undergraduate program at MIT different from those at other universities, in Lyndon's view, is the emphasis on work of practical value in design classes. The students work on designs that could be, and occasionally are, implemented in the real world.

Lyndon says that the arts offerings in the department are becoming increasingly important in the more general institute educational pattern. For instance, they are being used by a "large number of students" to fulfill the humanities requirements.

An area of research that "has occupied the minds of many people in the department," said Lyndon, is "the emphasis on community and students have been able to innovate both within the professional program and in the planning of further regulations." The students are currently in the process of acting as a subject matter for some of the projects at MIT. The focus is in implementing the idea of an inhabitant-modified building space at MIT to make it a place where "what people do is evident." He also has outlaid work as a consultant and in building design. He is stepping down in order to devote more time to these projects, he says.

"This has been a phase with many new things going on . . . and some of these things we have not been able to realize. Habraken will administer the next phase of the department's development, which Lyndon says will consist of "consolidation and giving "coherence" to the programs in the department.

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