Dorms are safe, Brammer says

(Continued from page 1) modern safety refinements.

Associate Director of the Safety Office Ray Diffley noted that all MIT houses feature automatic sprinkler systems, and a constant effort is made to further the safety of all buildings.

Asked if MIT's houses were indeed safe, Director of Housing and Food Services H. Eugene Brammer returned, "Is any building really safe? What does safe mean?" He continued that "all of the Institute houses meet or exceed current safety standards." No matter how safe the physical structure might be, Brammer noted, no building can be safer than its residents.

Traditional "hacking" such as water fights utilizing fire hoses and abusing fire extinguishers and other safety related equipment seriously endangers the safety of house residents, Brammer said. The use of "zip cords" (multiple-plug extension cords), for example, risks the overloading of otherwise adequate electrical circuits, especially when zip cords serve high-power drawing devices such as refrigerators, televisions, and microwave ovens, warned Diffley.

There is a broad program now underway to educate the MIT community about general safety measures, with an emphasis on student housing.

A minor fire at Ashdown last Sunday morning demonstrated the effectiveness of safety equipment when the automatic sprinkler system extinguished what could have become a raging inferno.

Safety is an ongoing concern, stressed Diffley, and as one observer noted, no MIT dorm has ever burned to the ground.

NOTES

* 21.523, Cultures and Societies of South America, has a time change. It will meet Tuesdays, 3 to 5:30 in Room 14N-312 instead of Monday and Wednesday, 11 to 12:30. It has now been reclassified as a no-pre-requisite course. Call x3-6953 for information.

* Anyone with experience in MIT writing courses who would like to be a teaching assistant in 21.731 "Writing and Experience" (pay in money or credit) should contact the Writing Program, Room 14E-310, x3-7894.

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