By Mike Namee

The death of a Tufts University student last week by apparent nitrous oxide poisoning has intensified a move of students to "laughing gas" by thrill-seeking students.

Kevin Deck, 19, a sophomore engineering student, was found dead in his room Thursday night after he apparently had inhaled nitrous oxide from a tank found in the room. Preliminary autopsy reports indicated his death was caused by nitrous oxide, according to Middlesex County Medical Examiner Dr. Sidney Listernick.

"That gas can be very dangerous, if not deadly," Lister- nick explained. "Whenever it is used for anesthesia, they make sure there's oxygen nearby for the patient in case of poisoning." Nitrous oxide acts like carbon monoxide, consisting with hemoglobin in the blood to block distribution of oxygen in the body, the doctor said.

MIT Campus Patrol confiscated nitrous oxide tanks from students three times last year, and have received one report of a laughing gas incident this year, Chief Jim Oliveri said. "Three or four years ago, we had a real rash of those incidents," Oliveri said. "We were practically carrying tanks out of one or two dormitories."

Oliveri said there had been no serious injuries caused by laughing gas on campus, but "that doesn't mean the danger isn't there. That stuff is deadly, especially in a closed place with no ventilation," the chief said.

Security for nitrous oxide tanks on campus was stepped up two years ago in response to earlier incidents, Oliveri said, so no further steps were being planned in the wake of the Tufts death. "We do make every effort to have this gas not available to students, and to make its use by anyone in the communi- ty," he said.

The MIT-Numismatic Society will present "The Role of the Numismatist as a Consultant" Tuesday, Oct. 20. The meeting will be held from 7-9 p.m. in room 3-136. All are invited for an informal discussion of various topics on numismatics and numismatists. Contributions to the discussion are encouraged. The meeting will be open to the public.

The second Mitawanah Club sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Students in Science, Engineering, Economics and Humanities will meet Thursday, Oct. 22, at 8 p.m. in room 3-136. The meeting will feature Paul A. Gaitan, a research assistant at MIT. The session will focus on "The History of Hispanic Students at MIT: A Panel Discussion." The meeting is open to all who are interested. Details will be announced in the weekly Mitawanah Club newsletter.

The fall organizational meeting of the American Revolution Society will be held Thursday, Oct. 4, at 5:30 p.m. in room 25-70. All are invited to register for the meeting. Details will be announced in the weekly newsletter of the society.

The self-appraisal project, an ongoing project to encourage students new to MIT to evaluate their own abilities. Each of these four topics is being covered in 2 evening sessions during the fall term.

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