Health inspectors: no cooking in dorms

By Keet Pinman

Cambridge health officials have announced that MIT’s dormitories are in violation of the Cambridge Housing Code, which prohibits cooking and eating in dormitory bedrooms.

An inspection was conducted last week in all dormitories, and a letter was sent to MIT officials stating that "in order for the dormitories to be free from violations of the Cambridge Housing Code all cooking and eating in common units [bedrooms] must be discontinued immediately.

Kenseth's statement followed a Cambridge Health Department inspection of East Campus and MacGregor dormitories on Monday, Feb. 7. The letter specifically cited MacGregor as being in violation of the code.

Kenseth, the director of the Health Department, said that he could not recall any previous action of this sort by the city, and that Institute officials are awaiting clarification of the meaning and intent of the law cited by Kenseth.

Browning met Monday with dormitory presidents and representatives to explain the situation.

"They didn't inspect, they have a right to inspect, and it's looking against the code," Browning noted. He emphasized, however, that "before [we take] any action that we have to take, we'll be discussing it... with house presidents.

MIT dormitories are licensed by the City of Cambridge as lodging houses, and therefore are bound to obey the housing code.

Browning said that he would maintain close communication with house governments in an attempt to keep them up to date and added that he hopes that students will voluntarily comply with the ordinance.

The writing program approaches its end

By Thomas J. Spiak

Editor's note: the Writing Program has been followed by recovery ever since it was founded. This analysis is the first of a series describing the present state of the Program this week, the views of Sanford Kaye and Joseph Brown are explored.

After two years of bureaucratic infighting, the struggle over the future of writing instruction at MIT may be ending.

Present members of the Pilot Writing Program, advisors of a "po pulist" broad-based instruction, rather than the "elitist," preprofessional course favored by other members of the Humanities Department, are either preparing to throw in the towel or make their peace with the victors.

The story is ended; after this, the commitment to student-centered teaching will be dead here," commented Sanford Kaye, a lecturer in the Writing Program and one of its founders.

"Why this should be the outcome of a very positive evaluation, a book, and 750 students this term is beyond me.

Kaye and fellow instructor Joseph Brown added to already contentious circumstances by refusing faculty evaluation by an ad hoc committee comprised mainly of critics of the Program's teaching style.

Initially joined in their refusal by Professor Patricia Cumin and Professor Elizabeth Chodowska-Eltinger, Brown and Kaye broke with them after a stormy Committee meeting in January.

Typically we were told the Committee had a blank slate and that we did not go along with this evaluation, the School of Architecture (Please turn to page 3)

The Eastgate fire stifled swiftly

By David B. Koretz

A small kitchen fire in a 13th floor apartment forced the evacuation of Eastgate early Monday night.

There were no injuries from the blaze, as the occupant of the apartment, Jarvis Brock G., was not at home, and no one else in the suite remained long after the fire broke out.

According to John M. Freina, Director of the Safety Office, the fire started in the kitchen. An empty pan, laying on a stove which was left turned on, overlapped one of the burners and the counter top and ignited a pile of napkins.

The Cambridge Fire Department responded to the single alarm only three minutes after the call came into Campus Police headquarters at about 7:30pm. George Fogg G., a resident of the neighboring apartment J-2C, called the Patrol when he and his wife Arpie smelled smoke. She told The Tech that the smoke "was really thick," and that no building alarm had been sounded.

So her husband called the police and put a call out for the Fire Department. "We're the ones that put out the fire," Fogg said. "I'm certain of that," he said.

The kitchen area was severely damaged by the blaze. The cabinets were destroyed, the carpeting was damaged by smoke, and water, and the apartment will need a new paint job, according to Freina. Damage was estimated at $2500.

There are no smoke detectors in Eastgate apartments to warn residents of flames, Freina noted. There are heat detectors in the rubbish rooms, smoke detectors in the building's ventilation system, and sprinklers in the stair lobbies. These detectors were installed in Institute high-rise dorms last year following a fatal fire in Tork Hall during the summer of 1975.

The smoke detectors in the ventilation shafts did not register Monday night, as neither the flames nor the smoke spreads very far. Had these detectors been activated, Freina noted, exhaust fans could have been turned on to clear the smells and smoke from the building as well.

Eastgate, a high-rise dormitory for undergraduates, graduate students and faculty located at 40-50 Wadsworth St., in Cambridge, was evacuated completely when the building alarm went off. "Everything went right," said Freina, adding that the Fire Department responded remarkably well, extinguishing the fire before it could spread to other suites or floors.

In an unrelated incident the same night, a small fire started in a Tung Hall apartment. A student discovered the fire and called the emergency desk, which quickly called the emergency desk in another suite and little damage other than to the television set.