Kendall scarred by fuel truck blaze

By Mark James

Extensive damage still remains in Kendall Square from a spectacular explosion this Saturday afternoon.

A gasoline tank truck flipped over and exploded next to the MBTA's power station, killing the driver, Robert C. Klein of Revere, and spilling 5,000 gallons of burning gasoline.

The flames knocked out the power station, and Red Line service from Harvard Square to Park Street was interrupted for four hours.

Reputation Thomas Scott of the Cambridge Fire Department said that it was fortunate that the crash did not occur on a weekday, since many pedestrians normally cross the square near the power station during the week.

The trucks reportedly overturned and then rolled into the side of the power station. Several explosions, and the flames that followed, ripped off all but the front and upper sections of the tanks, destroying a large billboard next to the power station, and caused extensive heat damage to several buildings.

Windows were smashed in the Kendall Drug store across the street, and the store's sign was demolished. The plastic Harvard Trust Co. sign was also damaged by the heat.

Witnesses leaped to the height of surrounding buildings, and black smoke towered above the square and could be seen for several miles.

Almost 50 firefighters from the Cambridge Fire Department responded to the 2:17 p.m. alarm, according to Scott. The burning building is scheduled to be torn down this week.

The incident occurred at the site of Kendall Square, a complex of apartments, shops, and office buildings.

On-campus summer Work-Study OK'ed

By Mark James

Students as well as faculty members and students will be volunteering with the MIT Work-Study program this summer.

When craftsmen, engineers and students volunteer for the last several summers, some have experienced a sense of pride in being able to help others as much as the need required.

Volunteers who qualify through the Financial Aid Office will be able to earn up to $1,150 through the program.

The College Work-Study Program (WSP) helps create jobs for students who have demonstrated financial need by providing funding jobs with public and private employers.

The program is open to students of all levels and backgrounds.

Extraordinary work will be needed in the summer months to make the program available to as many students as possible.

Students are encouraged to register for the program, and applications are now being accepted for summer volunteer positions.

Applications are available from the Financial Aid Office, and are due by the end of March.