Dean's office reorganizes

By Steven Solnick

Personal reorganization throughout the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) have taken place over the course of the summer, and the search for a new dean is still ongoing.

The DEA post, which was left vacant after the resignation of Dean Carol Blemberg last August, has been filled temporarily by Associate Dean Robert Haliman.

According to Professor of Physics Anthony P. French, chairman of the advisory committee on the new position, prospective candidates for the post are still being interviewed. French said he hoped a list of potential candidates would be forwarded to Chancellor Paul Gray by mid-August. There is a strong chance the new dean could be chosen by Aug 9/23. However, the exact timing of the transition could be determined by whether the appointee is currently a member of the MIT community and whether he or she has any commitments to their current post.

Elsewhere in the Dean's office, staff changes are led by the surprise resignation from the ODSA of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Alice Seelinger. Seelinger, who had been an administrator in the Residence Program said "The truth. After seven years at the Deans' Office, it was time to go on to something else." She added, "Working with the Office of Freshman Advising and the Counseling Office is just not my thing. There was nothing there that grabbed my fancy."

Seelinger is on vacation until August 1, at which time she will go on leave for up to a year while looking for a new job. She said she would be looking within MIT where she has been for the last 2 years, but would consider leaving the Institute if a suitable opportunity did not arise here.

President Constantine Simonides, who conducted a review of the Deans Office last year and continues to supervise the ODSA, has announced that "everybody can replace Alice." He did, however, indicate that the Residence Staff will be the next to go. The process of selecting a new dean is complex, and will involve a search with MIT's help.

In the new branch of the ODSA christened Student Assistance Service (SAS), Eugene Chandler, currently Foreign Students Advisor in the Admissions office, will become Associate Dean and International Student Advisor. Robert Randolph has been named new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and will divide his attention between Counseling Services and the Resident Program. Finally, Simonides confirmed that Robert Halliman, now acting Dean for Student Affairs, will return to his former post as Associate Dean for Counseling after the arrival of a new dean.

Sources indicated that staff changes were also likely to be announced in the Office of Freshman Advising before the end of the summer.

Fiedler death ends a tradition

By Eric Sklar

This year Arthur Fiedler failed to conduct a Fourth of July concert on the Esplanade. Fiedler spent the evening at home in bed listening to a radio broadcast of the event, which was led by Harry Ellis Dicks, Assistant Conductor of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. Joining Fiedler in Atlanta were the 1972 Overture and its accompanying church bells, artillery fireworks.

Fiedler had conducted concerts on the Esplanade since July 4, 1939, when he initiated the first series of summer outdoor concerts played by musicians from the Boston Symphony. But this year, his health, which has been steadily declining, was too poor to allow his appearance.

The fireworks were canceled by the Metropolitan District Commission because of crowd control difficulties in the past. This year, however, the crowd of approximately 50,000 was relatively well-behaved and reinstatement of the fireworks for next year is "under consideration," according to Ed Bridges, Public Information Officer for the MDC.

Within a week of the concert on the Fourth, Arthur Fiedler died. Although people were deeply saddened by the loss of the man who had become as much a folk hero as a musical celebrity, few were surprised. In a way Fiedler's absence from the concert on the Fourth was a form of death, the death of a tradition. As an effort to commemorate the many years of music on the Esplanade Fiedler provided, a restaging of his most popular concert, the presentation of July 4, 1976, was hastily arranged for the evening of July 15.

The organizers of the concert expected that the event would be attended by 400,000 people, as had the concert of 1976, but the weather discouraged many people and only 115,000 attended. Over 100 people, in an effort to acquire good seats for the concert, jumped out onto the grass oval of the Esplanade the night before the event, and many more arrived early for the early Sunday morning. This concert included the 1972 Overture with fireworks, bells and artillery and the "crowd was pretty well-behaved," according to Bridges.

When asked if the behavior of the crowd at the memorial concert had influenced the decision on the return of fireworks for next years, Fidler's death, Bridges said that the experience would not have a negative influence, but might or might not have a positive one. In any case, he does not expect a decision until "next spring."

The meeting of the World Council of Churches attracted others, and the support of South African aparthied by tran-