Resident admits he set fire

By Michael J. Garrison

Stephanie P. Fernandez '86 ad-
mitted at a house meeting Sunday to setting the fire that swept through the Rubble entry of Sen-
ior House last Tuesday night. Fernandez said he "had a lit cigarette and thought it would be funny to put some cigarette holes in the bannister," according to St- phen T. Latou '86, Senior House president.

Roberta A. Sherwood, associate dean for student affairs, said Fernan- dez did not "maliciously" set out to harm the house or endanger the residents. He will, however, have to "pay full finan-
cial restitution," Sherwood said.

Fernandez has also been de-
clined persona non grata in the residence system, which means he may not live in or visit any of the dormitories on campus, Sher- wood added.

No charges have been filed against Fernandez because he had turned himself in to the campus police, according to Inspector Philip Paris, a member of the Cambridge Fire Department ar-
son squad.

Although Paris noted that this case has been turned over to

MIT, he cautioned that "any and all (fire) incidents will be in-
vestigated by this office. Just be-
cause someone comes in and ad-
mits to starting a fire, that does not mean that he will not be pro-
secuted."

The MIT Housing Office has filed charges with the Committee on Discipline because of the life-
threatening nature of the inci-
dent, according to Gene Balm-
ner, director of housing and food service. "(The housing office) is not making any specific re-
commendations" to the commit-
tee on the disciplinary action against Fernandez, he said.

The contractors completed the repairs late Friday night, but have not sent MIT a bill. They repas-
ted the walls, replaced a damaged carpeting, and repaired a burnt bannister. The Housing Office originally estimated repair costs at $3500.

Senior House has set up new rules of communication with the Office of the Dean for Stu-
dent Affairs, including the invita-
tion of deans to the house meet-
ings. Lentz emphasized, "It is im-
portant that Senior House is not seen as a place where this type of thing goes on (because of this incident)," he remarked.

Committee seeks admissions head

By Amy S. Gorin

An advisory committee which has been established to screen ap-
plicants for the position of direc-
tor of admissions has begun con-
ducting interviews with likely candidates.

The committee, which is made up of five faculty members and two undergraduates, was estab-
lished in early May by Institute Vice President Constance B. Sti-
mesides when former director Peter R. Portnoy '70 resigned his position on June 1.

Richardson officially retired September 1. Interviews with prospective applicants will con-
tinue until the position is finalized, according to Professor Sheila E. Wid-
nell '69, chairman of the committee.

Because of the importance of the position, Simonton says he is willing to wait if the preferred candidate is not available im-
mediately. He has asked Senator Assistant Director of Admissions Julia C. McLellan to continue in her position as acting director until a new director is installed. McLellan had previously planned to retire this summer after a 39 year tenure.

McLellan, who describes herself as "holding down the fort," does not expect the admissions office to have any problem per-

forming its functions.

"We of course miss Peter," she said, but the office staff "is a group of professionals" who are performing their jobs and will continue to do so.

"We have a really superior class coming in and we hope to do it again," said McLellan.

The Office of Admissions is presently sending out final appli-
cations to prospective members of the Class of 1989. The admis-
sions office staff will begin travel-
ing to meet prospective appli-
cants shortly. Early action applications are due the first of November.

An advertisement which has been placed in The New York Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and other national publications describes the qualifications for the position and the established professional stature; academic orientation and com-
mitment to a broad, science-
based education; and points of view; leadership; superior communications skills; and a good sense of humor.

Simonton described the job of director as "tough, very pres-
suasive, and a good sense of humor." McLellan added, "We got into some difficulties in the position, but we have had a number of people in the role of acting director and a possible candidate is unable to start im-
mediately. Simonides says he is will-
ing to wait if the preferred can-
cidate is not available immediately. He has asked Senator Assistant Director of Admissions Julia C. McLellan to continue in her position as acting director until a new director is installed. McLellan had previously planned to retire this summer after a 39 year tenure. McLellan, who describes herself as "holding down the fort," does not expect the admissions office to have any problem per-

MIT will finish Alley changes late

By Diana benz-Aaron

MIT will complete its construc-
tion of a new walkway on Amherst Alley by the end of No-
vember, three months late, Cam-
pus Architect Harry P. Portnoy said yesterday. The original plan called for the alley construction to be finished by the beginning of the fall semester.

"We got into some difficulties underground that slowed the con-
struction down," Portnoy ex-
plained. Because the design and budget were finished before any exceptions, construction began in mid-June rather than before commencement as initially sched-
uled. The new budget will not be finalized until the project is com-
pleted, he said.

The design calls for new ramps and service driveways to the liv-
ing groups along Amherst Alley, new sidewalks and plantings, and "four or five-foot high" fences between the fraternal groups along that section of the alley, Portnoy explained.

The reactions of the fra-
ternities along Amherst Alley to the

MIT Libraries to implement new computer system

By Simon L. Garfinkel

The MIT Libraries have chosen to install an "automated circula-
tion system, not an online catalo-
gue," said Director of Libraries Bruce and Sandra McCarroll.

The system, a product of Geac Ltd., a Canadian company, will store administrative data, rather than the synopses that an online catalogue would. It will run all aspects of the library circulation including borrowing and return-
ing of books, mailing out of overdue notices, fine manage-
ment, and registration of new books.

Only books acquired since 1973 will be on the database ini-
tially. Books acquired before 1973 will be en-
tered as they are borrowed. The Geac system can hold a total of six million records, Luckier ex-
plained.

To use the system, students will have to place bar-code stick-
ers on the backs of their MIT identification cards. No student will be able to check out a book without this bar-code sticker, Luckier said. The code on the stickers will correspond to MIT ID numbers; the libraries will in-
stead assign a special number to each student, Luckier explained.

If a student loses his identifica-
tion card, it will be possible to place a "stop" on it so it cannot be used by any other student, he

continued. "The system will be heavily protected by passwords," said Lauren Kержin, project mana-
erg of the MIT Libraries Auto-
catalog Circulation System.

"Initially, (terminal) are not going to be put in public places," but they will be available at the libraries' circulation desks, Luckier continued. "We're hoping when the (terminals) are not in use by staff they'll do queries for students," he added.

Most library terminals will be computerized, but the library circulation desks in the basement of the Hayd- en Memorial Library will remain.

Library Associates will receive the terminal's help as they work on the circulation system, all the while keeping their eyes on the libraries' circulation work.

Libraries will implement new computer system