President Paul E. Gray ’84 accepted a $15,000 check from the Graduate Student Council targeted for graduated housing. Presenting the check are left to right: James Hickman G, GSC President Norman Wereley G, and Retae New of the Massachusetts Air Force ROTC.

David M. Wytrowski/The Tech

Student murdered at MIT

Roxbury man stabs Northeastern freshman

By Ben Z. Sanger

Michael P. Harris was arrested yesterday in Cambridge district court on murder charges for the stabbing of a Northeastern University freshman in the MIT Student Center. The victim, 18-year-old Ignatius St. Rose, died at 4 a.m. of multiple stomach wounds, about three hours after he was stabbed, according to Robert Dilanian of the MIT News Office. St. Rose lived in Northeastern’s White Hall and was a resident of Brooklyn, New York.

The incident took place at a dance sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha – a national black social fraternity with chapters at MIT and NU. Over 200 people attended the party.

No action was served at the party, and everyone entering was required to show a valid college identification, according to Dilanian and Director of Campus Activities Barbara M. Fenneman. The decision not to serve alcohol was made by the fraternity, Fenneman said.

Apparently, a dangerous situation developed when Harris took a photograph of an Air Force student and a few minutes later, when the other men asked Harris to stop taking the picture, a fight broke out.

Dilanian confirmed that a few people broke away from the crowd, Dilanian said. At 12:40 a.m., the organizers of the party ejected Harris and St. Rose, who were each followed by 10 to 15 friends. Another dozen people standing outside put the total number at 50 to 60, Dilanian said.

A light broke out “almost instantaneously,” Dilanian continued. The first Campus Police officers stationed at the party called for Cambridge Police and Campus Police backups, who arrived within several minutes.

"He's got a knife," somebody shouted. Other people broke away from the crowd, Dilanian said. Harris appeared, he said, and cut a camera in his possession.

Campus Police Officer Cheryl Blackwell, emergency medical technician, turned and saw the victim. She placed the phone at 12:43 a.m. to call for paramedics.