Robert O. Preusser

Robert O. Preusser, a prominent visual artist who headed the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, died in the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Monday after battling with cancer for several years. He was 73.

Preusser came to MIT in 1954 at the invitation of his former teacher, Institute Professor Emeritus Gyorgy Kepes. That one-year invitation evolved into a 31-year tenure as a professor of architecture and three-dimensional forms. The art collection of this three-dimensional form, the "M" collection, is located on the fifth floor of Building 77, Massachusetts Ave. It is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Preusser was born in Houston, Texas, and it was there that he began his art career in 1936. His artwork was first exhibited while he was in his teens.

Before coming to MIT, Preusser taught at the Institute of Design in Chicago and the University of Houston. He co-directed the first museum of contemporary art in Houston and was associate curator of education at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. During World War II, he served in the Army's 84th Engineer Camouflage Battalion as an

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Bomb Threat Clears Main Institute Buildings

By Eva Moy

A bomb threat resulted in the evacuation of Buildings 3, 5, 7, and part of Building 1 at around 11 a.m. Wednesday, according to Campus Police Lt. James P. Cappucci. No bombs were found after a room-by-room search of these buildings by Campus Police, he said.

People were allowed to return to the buildings about 45 minutes later, at 12:20 p.m., said Robert C. Dilio, associate director of the MIT News Office. The threat was made when a female caller tipped off the Registrar's Office at about 10:45 a.m. The caller said, "There are seven bombs that I planted at 77 Massachusetts Ave. I'm not kidding," according to Dilio. The caller also said she did not want to see anybody get hurt.

A second call with a similar message was received a few minutes later in Building 3, Dilio said. The main objective was just to get everybody out of the building, Cappucci said. "We didn't have the luxury of talking to everyone individually, so we got them out by fire alarms, bell horns, shouting, and knocking doors," he said.

In truth, only the 77 Massachusetts Ave. entrance was blocked off, but the Campus Police quickly extended the search area to include all floors of Buildings 3, 5, and 7, Cappucci said.

While those buildings were being evacuated, the fire alarm in Building 4 went off. Physical Plant workers were deployed to the scene and told to handle the alarm as they would any fire. They found no fire, however, and determined that someone had tampered with a detector.

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Reading Room Attracts Outside Students

By Deena S. Disraelly

Not only does the reading room, located on the fifth floor of the Student Center, provide a quiet study environment for MIT students, it is also attracting students from other area schools.

According to a group of Tufts Medical students, students from their school, Harvard Medical School, Northeastern University, and Harvard University like to study in the room because it is open 24 hours a day.

The reading room reopened in April 1991; it was closed in 1988 when renovations on the lower floors of the Student Center forced offices to move to the fifth floor. The room provides cubicles for individual study, tables for group study, and a separate area with couches and chairs for reading or group study.

Usually, non-MIT students use the reading room only during exam periods "because people stay up really late," said a Tufts Medical student. "But we're here a lot," she added.

"We've been here every night for the past week until 3 a.m.," said Vahid Khazaei, another Tufts Medical student.

Many students note the convenience of having a study room that is open all the time.

"One of the reasons I came to MIT was the 24-hour library," said Dave K. Christalos, '96. He studies at the reading room almost every night and has occasionally come close to falling asleep in his cubicle because "it is impossible to study in my parents' home." He added, "We come here because it's open past midnight," and "I'mising from Tufts Medical School. The Tufts Medical students live in the Back Bay area. They come to MIT at many reasons, including their inability to get any work done at home. It's open until 11 p.m. during the week and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends.

"Plus, we're at [Tufts] all day," said Frank Scaglione, '95. "And, we have no place of our own." The Tufts Medical students were introduced to the reading room by another Tufts Medical student who had graduated from MIT. She came back the next day and to the request for quiet. She saw it as a place to be quiet and brought friends with her. Since then, third-year students have told current second-year students about the room and its advantages.

Among these advantages are the