Boasted by MGM, others were people about the cameras and equipment, Bridges, but "when you're on the screen by MGM as a paid extra. Aspiring filmmaker, and LaVerde's no way condones any type of incendiary bombs," she added.

"I have received a few calls from people complaining about our supporting bombs ... [but] the movie is about the men and women of the Boston bomb squad who risk their lives every day to prevent the destruction that bombs inflict and in no way condones any type of bombs," she added.

Actor James Robinson, an aspiring filmmaker, and LaVerde's employee, was excited to be chosen by MGM as a paid extra. It was his "biggest project, as far as Hollywood." Robinson worked near bridges, but "when you're on the set and working, it's not very professional to walk over and ask for autographs," he said. Robinson also talked with some of the technical staff about the camera and equipment.

Although most extras were secured by MGM, others were people who "showed up at the right time," said Michael T. Ford '94, who played an extra. "I was supposed to stand there and pretend I was watching a bunch of policemen and firemen run into a building," he said. "It was kind of fun. It'd be neat when the movie comes out."

John H. Lynn, an administrative assistant, walked past the trailer trucks at the end of the day and saw the equipment and costumes that the filming cast and crew had used. "It was fascinating — to see it and realize this is what it takes to make a movie that we see for granted."

Much planning involved.

The Massachusetts Film Office initially approached LaVerde about the feasibility of the project. After another meeting and after MIT was satisfied that the filming would be a positive experience, consent was given, Fitzgerald said. MIT was appropriately compensated for direct expenses and the use of facilities, Fitzgerald added.

MGM worked with the state and the Metropolitan District Commission to block off Memorial Drive. Campus Police Lt. James F. Capone, Physical Plant Route Supervisor Norman H. Magnussen, Jr., and Assistant Director for Programs Ted E. Johnson also helped oversee the process during filming.

The campus police played a peripheral role, providing security details and crowd control, according to Chief of Campus Police Anne F. Glavin. MGM also used a Campus Police cruiser for the day, and Boston and State Police were on site.

"I heard very good feedback from the officers," Glavin said. She added that at one point, Bridges realized that a real Campus Police officer was standing near him, and brought him into the view of the camera in the scene.

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