Outsiders Crash CC Party; Cambridge Police Called In

By Ramy A. Arnaout  
NEWS EDITOR

Campus and Cambridge police were called in to deal with a group of 30 to 100 rowdy non-MIT residents who tried to enter an informal post-party reception at Chocolate City early Saturday morning.

The incident followed an annual fund-raising party thrown by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Friday night. After the party ended at about 1 a.m., several people were invited back to CC, said CC Co-Chair Kobie S. Burrell '96.

The people, who returned from the party noticed that they had been joined by a large group of uninvited people, who followed them into New House lobby, Burrell said.

"They were expecting [something] to happen. It wasn’t that they came in with bats trying to break windows," Burrell said. "They were expecting a chance to socialize."

"The people were very rowdy, out of control," Burrell said. "They got inside, and we tried to get them out. We did everything we could to handle the situation as best we could."

According to Burrell and Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin, CC called the police to help.

"The MIT Campus Police made several attempts to disperse the crowd; additional help was requested from Cambridge Police," said Margaret A. Jablonski, associate dean for residence and campus activities.

Cambridge dispatched two cruisers in response to the call for assistance, said Frank Pasquale, Cambridge Police public information officer.

"This is a very normal backup situation," Glavin said. "What Cambridge Police do when they get to [the scene], that’s their business."

In addition to rowdy behavior, the sheer number of uninvited guests that appeared outside New House presented a problem, said CC Co-Chair Matthew J. Turner ’96. "The fact that we were outnumbered — 10 brothers with a crowd of 60 or 70 people — made dealing with the situation difficult, he said. "We told the Campus Police we had to clear them out."

The crowd was finally dispersed by around 2 a.m., Glavin said. "While no arrests or injuries resulted from the confrontation, one CP and two Cambridge police cruisers had tires slashed, and had to be towed from the scene, Glavin said.

Police may have used mace. CC members say that the Cambridge police used chemical irritants to control the crowd.

"Students from CC said that there was a strong odor of mace," Jablonski said.

"People were running around saying they couldn’t breathe," Burrell said. "That struck me as odd. I’d been to parties before and never seen anything like that."

Neither CP nor Cambridge police would comment on whether mace or other irritants were used. However, Pasquale said that generally, "if you’re sprayed, you’re arrested."

Turner and others disagreed of the Cambridge police’s tactics.

"Whatever was sprayed could have hurt residents in the house," Turner said.

"We work well with the CPs."

Chocolate City, Page 7

Fire in MacGregor Causes Evacuation

By Ramy A. Arnaout  
NEWS EDITOR

The discovery of a deliberately-set fire prompted a dormitory-wide evacuation of MacGregor House Sunday night. A burning toilet paper page filled entry with smoke and resulted in the evacuation.

"The Cambridge Fire Marshal was here, as was the Arson Squad," said. MacGregor Housemaster Steven J. Lippard. "Nothing like this has happened in the recent past."

"I thought we did pretty well in emptying the place out. It was good to see that everybody got out rather quickly," Lippard said.

As the dormitory’s 350 residents looked on from the front steps, city firefighters converged on the house’s J-entry, where Physical Plant Mechanic Ronald J. Beaudin pulled the fire alarm after hearing reports of smoke.

"I was checking the exhaust fans on the roof. I thought it might be a bum-out exhaust fan," Beaudin said.

The building was evacuated at about 9:30 p.m., Lippard said. "It was a bum-out exhaust fan," Beaudin said.

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RCA Suspends Frat

Kappa Alpha Psi, a black fraternity, was put on suspension by the Residence and Campus Activities office, following a hazing incident that took place last spring.

Five students were involved in the activity, according to Associate Dean Margaret A. Jablonski.

It is not entirely clear what action the national organization is taking to deal with the case, Jablonski said. "The hazing involved both mental and physical activity," Jablonski said.

Because of this incident, five individuals—four from MIT and one from Harvard—appeared in Cambridge District Court for violating a Massachusetts state law on hazing, jablonski said.

"At that point we suspended the chapter pending the outcome of an investigation into the activity, according to Associate Dean Margaret A. Jablonski."

Suspension, Page 7

The Weather

Today: Becoming cloudy, 59°F (15°C)

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 39°F (4°C)

Tuesday: Cold, 45°F (7°C)

Details, Page 2

The Institute started dressing for the holidays yesterday morning as the front entrance of Lobby 7 was decorated. Here a worker places the final touch on the first of three wreaths placed over the doors.

By Jeremy Hylton  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A pair of computer problems disrupted service of the campus network and the Athena Computer Environment yesterday afternoon.

A hardware problem in Building NW12 and a problem with the AFS network software caused the disruption, according to Gregory A. Jackson, director of the Academic Computing Services division of Information Systems.

"In broad terms, today was a day no one would wish on their enemies," Jackson said.

The network software problems began at 2:20 p.m. yesterday and lasted until about 3:05 p.m., according to Sameer Raheja '96, an Athena consultant.

The problem slowed the system to a crawl, Raheja said. "Basically it took a very long time to log in [to Athena workstations] and everything was really slow," he said. "In some cases, people could not log in."

The hardware problem shut down network access for most of west campus including the Student Center and Remnet users in the dormitories, according to Matthew H. Braun ’93, a programmer with the Distributed Computing and Network Services division of IS. A router failure in Building NW12 caused the problem, he said.

Problem Thursday, Monday:
The other problem was with the Andrew File System, the software which links file servers and workstations at MIT and others across the Internet. AFS file servers hold individual users' locker files.

Yesterday's AFS failure is the second in the past week. Last Thursday, the problem caused the top-level MIT AFS server to fail and forced DCNS to shut down and restart all Athena file servers, according to Kimberly A. Carney, a supervisor in DCNS.

The problem developed again yesterday afternoon, but DCNS was not forced to shut down the file servers. "Fortunately, because of Thursday's problem, the network software problems were not as bad as they could have been," Jackson said.

Failures Shut Down Campus Network Twice in Last Week

By Jeremy Hylton  
NEWS EDITOR

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