By Bob Stanger
MacGregor House residents began returning to their rooms yesterday at 8 a.m. following a twelve day evacuation period resulting from a complete loss of power in the dormitory.

Rain from a severe storm flooded the MacGregor basement in the early morning of Aug. 1. The flood incapacitated all MacGregor electrical systems, including sprinklers, fire alarms, water pumps and emergency backup power, according to MacGregor House Manager Kenneth W. Wolff. Wolff said that all clocks in MacGregor had stopped at 3:30 a.m., the probable time at which the water short-circuited the power supply.

Housing Maintenance Manager Gus Perry said pump motors and Alert automatic sprinkler generator were submerged under 30 inches of water, and the dormitory was no longer safe for students. He decided to evacuate the 180 residents of MIT's largest dormitory by 7:30 a.m.

To evacuate a dorm of this size - in a major undertaking, Wolff said. Wolff worked with the MIT Department of Physical Plant to get room assignments for the residents. Wolff said everyone received their new rooms on Aug. 1 and should have moved out by that evening.

Physical Plant workers used pumps to remove the water from the basement. The water was out within a day, Wolff said.

Perry said emergency power was restored as dawn after the flooding, and full power service was restored by that evening. Systems were safe enough for students to return to their rooms on Friday afternoon, Perry added.

Lawrence E. Maguire, associate director of housing and food services, said that the damages from the flood would run into "big bucks," although detailed estimates of costs have not been made yet.

Some belongings stored in the basement of MacGregor were also damaged by the water. Maguire said the belongings would have to be brought to the MacGregor TV room and aired out-until the term begins. Perry said MIT insurance would probably cover some of the damages.

Both Wolff and Maguire commended MacGregor residents for their courage. Wolff said the MacGregor students were "real troopers," Maguire said.

Alumni grants raise flood to new height
By Mathews M. Cherian
The 1985 Alumni Fund grew to a record $10.1 million this year, according to Joseph S. Collins, director of the Alumni Fund.

The rise marked the sixth year in a row that the "wearing slab," the top pad of a record $10.1 million this year, large part of the MIT Corporation, of which comprise the MIT Corporation, the governing body of the Institute.

Contributions to the Alumni Fund have achieved a new million dollar giving plateau," said Peter Saylor, assistant manager for building maintenance.

Contractors will complete the work on the 180-resident dorm by 7:30 a.m. Sept. 19. The construction started the week of July 21.

The R/O Center will be in the West Lounge as originally intended, according to Andrew M. Ei- stetter, 75, Staff Assistant for Physical Plant. The construction should not cause any inconvenience to the R/O Center or the Garage Center, Eistetter commented.

Only one staircase at a time will be closed, so "we should have the same access as [we do] presently," he said. "I don't foresee any problems we wouldn't be able to handle."

"Over the past couple of years the campus has started to unroll, to fade off," Gifun said. The water is due to a chemical reaction of the cement to the salt used for snow removal.

Over the past couple of years the campus has started to unroll, to fade off," Gifun said. The water is due to a chemical reaction of the cement to the salt used for snow removal.

Another area to which the R/O Center actively encourages contributions is the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF). Alumni cannot take charitable deductions for money they give directly to the independent living groups. The IRDF was established as a way in which alumni could give tax deductible money to MIT. In turn, provides low-interest money to the independent living groups for renovations.

This drainage system has not worked very well, and "puddles of water have increased the salt damage to the cement," Gifun pointed out. "It's a problem of poor cement and poor drainage."

The wearing slab is not bonded to the structural slab, and damage to the structural slab is "only minor," Gifun said. Gifun did not know the type or condition of concrete used in the rest of the Student Center. Debrah Foreman, the original engineer for Catalano and Associates, who has been working with Gifun, "was out of town and unavailable for comment."

We'll be working weekends if we can because we'd like to get ahead," Gifun said. The contractors have had to work overtime to get jackinghammer done between conferences held in the West Plaza buildings, he explained.

We'll continue that practice [when the term starts] and grab a few hours here and there [on the weekends] if we need it," he added.

By Diana bee-Aaron
Recognized that a "great job" was done by Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center steps will be renovated for Residence/Orientation (R/O) Week, according to Joseph E. Gi- fun, assistant manager for building maintenance.

Construction round-up
- Most of the remaining work on Amherst Alley will be finished by the end of August, according to Director of Physical Plant Paul F. Barrett. Only brickwork and landscaping are left, Barrett said, and "some large trees have to be transplanted, but we'll do that later in the fall because that's a better time for trees."
- Contractors are removing the traffic surfaces in the East, West, and Alumni Street garages, which have suffered from the same problem as the Student Center steps; oil and salt from the road drip off the undersurfaces of the cars and erodes the concrete. "If you let it go, it would become a structural problem," Barrett noted.
- Physical Plant is also overseeing the sandblasting and repainting of structural steel in the Student Center. "The work was done in the summer because parking needs are lower at that time. The majority of the work will be done before school starts, and then we will proceed on a floor-by-floor basis." - East Campus and Senior House renovations will be complet- ed on schedule, according to Housing Office Maintenance Manager Gus Perry. Most of the work will be completed by Aug. 20, "our original deadline," Perry said, and "loose ends — work that does not affect students — should be tied up by the 26th." Landscaping on the pathway between McDermott Court and Ames Street will be done by the end of August, Barrett con- firmed, "and likewise for the courtyard, which is where the residents have worked out on the Housing Office." - Senior House residents will be able to move back into the house on Aug. 26, said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood. "The Housing Office is very aware of when R/O starts, and we have set a date of the 24th to finish everything," Sherwood commented.

Reparis to Senior House included new hallway carpets; a new energy-saving hot water system; new stoves, sinks, and radiator controls in student rooms; and conversion of basement rooms to make room for Project Athena terminals.

Conversion of the old Hayden Gallery in Building 14 to a performance space is "still at the formative stages of cleaning up and actual design," Barrett said.

MIT Cambridge Massachusetts Tuesday, August 13, 1985

MacGregor House was closed for nearly two weeks after a power loss forced residents to evacuate.
Gray excluded from letter to the Senate

In the second week of July, presidents of the Ivy League colleges and twelve other schools of high reputation wrote Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole and Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd urging United States sanctions against the South African government. On July 11, the Senate voted in favor of official economic sanctions against South Africa.

Harvard Vice President John Shattuck said the letter had a "very significant impact on the Senate vote," and moderate, "on the fence," senators were influenced strongly by the letter.

The letter was conceived and written by a group chosen because of pressure on their institutions to divest. MIT was unrepresented at both meetings; MIT is not a member of the Ivy League.

Senator Joe Biden held in late June, and a meeting of the South African Research Consortium (SARC), held in the first week in July SARC is composed of representatives of academic and intellectual universities. Its members discuss information, strategies, and develop the Research and Responsibility Center.

MIT was unrepresented at both meetings; MIT is not a member of the Ivy League. Shattuck said that there was no time for the presidents of the letter to consult Gray. The presidents were informed of the letter on July 6, the day before the Senate vote, and they were not sure that it was on the Senate agenda until the morning of the vote. Therefore, only those presidents who had shown an active interest in writing the letter were consulted, he added.

Even so, plans to write to the Senate had long been in the works. Harvard President Derek Bok appeared before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs in late May, and a letter was considered at the Ivy League and SARC meetings.

Stanford President Donald Kennedy was one of the presidents who signed the letter, if there is more communication between the presidents of Harvard and Stanford than the presidents of Harvard and MIT, then MIT is not receiving the status it should.

Perhaps some of the presidents signed because of pressure on their institutions to divest. MIT has not felt the same pressure to divest that Harvard and Columbia have. Could this be related to MIT's exclusion from participating in a concepted effort?

Shattuck does not think so. He said that the letter came "from the deep involvement of a small number of presidents in working on issues of legislation." President Gray has stated his personal position on apartheid clearly and firmly. Apartheid is evil, unsupported, and in the system.

The letter to the Senate was also a personal statement. It is the responsibility of the presidents who signed to seek out other influential presidents who share their opinion and could add drive to their efforts. Similarly, President Gray's voice should be included in future efforts.

The letter was quiet at 9:30 Sunday morning. Suddenly at 9:15, a gasket from the gasifier failed at the Institute Union Carbide plant. A 500-gallon tank filled with potassium gas began to leak. Five minutes later the site began to sound, a cream-colored cloud began to spread over the area.

The nightmare of last December in Bhopal, India, where 2,000 people were killed by a leak at a Union Carbide plant, was relived last weekend. A less toxic derivative of the methyl isocyanate that did last year's damage was involved in West Virginia. But at least 140 residents needed treatment for their eyes, throats, and lungs.

What happened was a disaster. Yet despite whatever combinations of negligence and accident caused the leaks and the ensuing personal injuries, Union Carbide is not an evil corporation. The chemical was not intended to endanger people. Quite the opposite, the toxin was eventually slated for use as pesticide. The substance kills insects endangering our food supply. Without it, our daily bread would be a lot less easy to come by.

The company is not close to recovering from what may be the most expensive lawsuit settlement in history — its separations for the Bhopal tragedy. Estimates in the billions are produced for damage claims. The financial ramifications of the West Virginia fiasco can not yet be considered.

Carbide clearly did not let the chemicals escape on purpose. But accidents in chemical processing do happen. A brand new 15 million gallon warm system was just installed this year. It failed to warn residents before the burning odor had reached their lungs. "I didn't have a nerve to decide what to do," stand one of the residents.

In recent weeks, Congress began the approval process for new production of chemical weapons. It is a big and rather unexpected victory for the Pentagon. Reasons for the end of these years of resistance to new production by the House are varied. Strong lobbying played a big role. So did June's hijacking of the TWA jet in the Midwest. Perfectly debited Democrats are not to prove they are not anti-military. And if we can really trust the Russians.

The Soviet Union has used chemical warfare recently. The Soviets have murdered with their "yellow rain" in their desperate efforts to control Afghanistan, and probably instigated its use in the Iran-Iraq war.

The US does not want to be left without the newest in weapons that are easily as dangerous as nuclear bombs. Using genetic engineering to create toxins that can wipe out an enemy nation, while immunizing one's own people, is not a science fiction worry any longer.

We have seen that chemical production, even for such peaceful purposes as farming, may have deadly consequences. Yet here we are producing deadly toxins. At least our nuclear weapons production risks are not uncontrollably dangerous; our chemical weapon production risks are.

Cambridge recently told consulting with Arthur D. Little to take the five deadly gases it was using to develop protection equipment out of this city. The city considered the chemicals dangerous enough to restrict even the trace amounts being used, only 500 ml.

It is easy and frightening to think that such minute quantities could be exposed to us by accident. Killing people who didn't hear a whistle...
CONTEST

The Thirsty Ear Pub would like you to design an insignia for them. It should be one color (black preferred) and fit on an 8" x 11" size. Should be suitable for reduction.

Prize
Sony SRF-20 FM radio and a free T-shirt with your design.

Entries due Aug. 30th. Submit your design(s) to the Thirsty Ear Pub. Winner announced at the Ear Sept. 4th.

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Available at Harvard Coop, 203 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard, Cambridge, MA 02138.
big men on campus

The Class, by Erich Segal. Random Books, 300 pp., $3.95.
One's reaction to the book should be the same as one's reaction to the first para-
graph of the jacket copy. "The world's renowned author of Love Story has writ-
ten his most ambitious and compelling novel: a book that is as the saga of a gen-
eration and the moving story of five mem-
bers of the Harvard class of 1938, and of the women with whom their lives are intertwined."

The Class is similarly overblown and poorly written. The characters represent stock Harvard-types behaving in stereotyped fashion. Segal further burdens them with his MESSAGE that hubris will be punished and one's only redemption is the ability to act decently.

A more charitable interpretation of the book might allow that Segal writes accu-
ately of a group of shallow Harvard-types and shallow Harvard-types obsessed in the real world. Segal goes about his stu-
y in the correct way, writing about people in a situation, rather than with people in it.

If that is the case, Segal has failed by allowing his characters' lack of depth to perniciously and take over the book. Just as

it is very difficult to write about boring people without being boring, it is likewise difficult to write about shallow people without being shallow.

The jacket copy again suggests how the reader will interpret the central char-
acters: "Denny Ross, the musical prodigy, Risks all for Harvard, even a break with his dominating father, yet his real prob-
lems are too many too soon — and too many women.

"For LANCASTER spends his four years as a commuter, as an outsider. He is observed by his dormmates to the top of Harvard academic ladder, heaped of what it will cost him in personal terms."

"Jason Gilbert is the Golden Boy — handmade, charismatic, a brilliant athlete."

Harvard teaches him that he cannot ignore his Jewish background. But he finds his true identity only in tragedy."

"George Keller is a refugee from a Com-
munist Hungary. He comes to Harvard with the barest knowledge of English. But with ruthless determination, he masters not only the language but the power struc-
ture of his new country."

"Andrew Eliot is haunted by three cen-
turies of eminent Harvard forebears. His ancestry casts giant shadows on his confi-
dence. It is not until the sad and startling events of the reunion that he learns his val-
ue as a human being.

If you still want to find out what hap-
pens to these people, wait until the book comes out in paperback, save yourself $15, and read it on a long plane trip. I inhaled the book in three nights in a pre-nostalgic fire over my impending graduation from MIT; under any other circumstances, I would not have read past the jacket copy. Segal, astonishingly, telling the story instead of showing it in the reader. Yes, though Andrew Eliot had not known — and perhaps still did not understand — he was, in human terms, the best man in The Class.

Earlier in the book the reader learns that: "There was an element of irony in the choice of play [Ted Lambros would teach in a seminar]. For Euripides' heroine, who in a hysterically

abyssically sacrifices herself to save her husband, and thereby perpetuates their marriage. Whereas the author himself will find the knell of Ted's relationship with Sara."

Segal's book is similarly overblown and shallow Harvard-types do abound — and probably for a dozen or so pages thereof. (There's an awful lot going on.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1985

big city, bright lights

Bright Lights, Big City, by Jay McInerney. Vintage Contemporaries paperback origi-
inal, 182 pp., $5.95.
You never intended to read this book; in fact, you didn't know it existed. You went to the bookstore to get something to read for the rest of your lunch hour. Bright Lights, Big City stood out of the shelf at you.

You picked it up cautiously. "Splendid . . . The Catcher in the Rye of the MBA's," trumpeted the inside cover. You munched; how grotesque, a Yuppie Salin-
ger. You skimmed the first page, just for 
laughs.

You walked down the aisle. You came back and picked up Bright Lights, Big City and read a couple more pages, just to see how the story was going to turn out. You realized you were going to end up buying the book. You headed for the cash-
register.

In the next three days you read the book two and a half times, marvelling at McIn-
nerney's command of the language. He can use verbs like a sportswriter and he sounds more like Hunter S. Thompson than Salin-
ger: "You know there is a special pregade;

suspense waiting for you out there in-dawn's dir-
ly light, a desperate half sleep which is like a goose in the brain.

The whole book is written in the second person. At the end of it, you have decided that the first and third persons are now obsolete for novelist purposes. You ask around: has anyone read this book? Has anyone heard of this book? Has anyone heard of this book? Has anyone heard of this book?

The most encouraging responses you get are, "Oh, yeah, that's what's-his-name" and "Didn't someone review it for The Tech a white book?" You are unable to lo-
case the review and decide to write an-
other.

The summoned hero is a young college graduate working for an unnamed maga-
azine that seems to be The New Yorker. He is going downhill fast. His wife, a model named Amanda who never quite sounds

real, left him.

He is inventing lots of time and little in-

teresting cruising nightclub with his friend Ted Allagash. He is doing too many drugs, principally cocaine. He is unable to pull himself together at work and his boss, "who a mind like a mouth and a heart like a twelve-minute man," is always looking down on him. He feels he isn't as bright as he used to. He decides he has nothing to look forward to. He is considering starting a Brochureship of Unfulfilled Promi-

The marvelous lunacy of the first 68 pages prepares you for the hilarious entry to satire, but the book loses a little momentum as the hero begins to get back on track by exploring the roots of his de-
pression and realizing the importance of family. Even though you realize McInerney is saying something important about priori-
ties, you get the impression he had pulled out a formula ending that would be easy for high school English teachers of the fu-
ture to analyze: "The past is important;

when in doubt, go back to your roots." But you can't complain too much. Ex-
tricating from the book the "life night has already turned on that impeccable
pivot where 3 am changes to 6 am," and
"sexual orientation: largely theoretical," and have become part of your vocabulary for looking at the world. Bright Lights, Big City is one of the best finds all sum-
mer.

Diana ben-Aaron
Summer theater a popular presentation

**PSST presents Kil, One For The Road, and 4-H Club**

The Project for Student Summer Theater (PSST) presented a night of drama in John P. Stopen's American Atomic Cafe plays at the Somerville Thre...
Promote Your Rush

Dear Living Group and/or Student Activity:

What every group wants most during R/O Week is a good turnout of interested freshmen. The Tech provides the maximum exposure you need to attract freshmen to your activities. And this year, to help reduce your advertising costs, The Tech is pleased to announce its special R/O Week advertising rate of $2.70 per column inch for MIT-recognized living groups, student activities, and athletic groups. This special rate represents a 18% savings over the usual rate for MIT student activities, and is in effect for the following issues:

- Friday, August 30 - Freshman Picnic
- Tuesday, September 4 - First housing assignments
- Friday, September 7 - Final housing assignments

Half-page ads will cost $130 ($100 if camera-ready), and full-page ads will cost $230 ($190 if camera-ready). Color is available for the August 30 issue.

Please come by The Tech offices in the Student Center, Rm. 483, or call us at 253-1541. If no one is around, our answering machine can take your message.

NOTE: These rates apply only to MIT-recognized activities, living groups and teams. To qualify for all of these special low rates, YOU MUST MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 5 PM THREE DAYS BEFORE ISSUE DATE.

More than just the news

"Continuous news service since 1881" means more than just reporting the news; The Tech has been covering the MIT sports scene for over a century.

The nation's biggest collegiate sports program deserves the nation's best collegiate sportswriters.

Join us.

The Tech

Continuous news service since 1881
TOOLS OF THE TRADE

It takes a lot more than state-of-the-art electronics to produce a newspaper.

It’s never too late to join *The Tech*. Starting August 28, we’ll be here every Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday and Monday nights. Come help us put the paper together. Free pizza, munchies, and all the X-acto blades you can eat. Become part of a tradition.
WMBR will solicit operation funding

By Katie Schwarz

WMBR, MIT's non-commercial student radio station, will solicit corporate grants and underwriting, according to Henry N. Holtzman '85, the station's technical director and former general manager.

The station needs more money for operating expenses, especially the cost of subscribing to the Associated Press wire service, Holtzman said. WMBR has "money in the bank" but will soon spend it to replace aging equipment, he explained.

WMBR is about to replace one of the control units at a cost of about $20,000. A control unit is a console, connected to turntables, tape decks, and microphones, used by the engineer to monitor and control the broadcast signal.

The control units are over 20 years old and break down frequently because of age and wear. One of the units is "the first traditional radio console," Holtzman said.

Holtzman also expects that within the next three years the station will need to replace the other control unit and the master control facility. The minimum expenditure for replacing the equipment into the '80s would be about $50,000, he said; for this cost, WMBR could have a "not opulent, but functional" facility, although he could easily see spending $200,000 on improvements.

WMBR's annual budget, not including capital expenditures, is $13,000 to $15,000, according to Holtzman; the station receives about $12,700 per year in support from MIT, with the remaining expenses covered by listener contributions. About $18,000 has been raised through listener contributions in the last two years. "That's what keeps us afloat," according to Holtzman.

In February 1983, WMBR went off the air for one week and arranged for grants from the same source. "It's not state-of-the-art stuff," Bernhardt said. "It happens every time there's a problem." Holtzman said. "Right now I feel pretty optimistic about our ability to survive the current problems."