Main building hit

Darkness envelopes Institute as power transformer quits

By Harold Fedrow

About an hour after breakfast today, the 5th, the lights went out. For one and a half minutes the Great Hall, the Cen- tral building without power of any kind, except for the emergency lighting.

The power failure began in the basement of Building 37 when one transformer on the main line burned out. This tripped a circuit breaker, and the power failure spread rapidly to the Main building hit with a blackout last week.

Dr. H. W. Groves, head of the Institute's Physical Plant, said, "The blackout provided a lesson for us all."

The system of compulsory commons dining was suspended because, according to one employee, "When the power went off, the machine didn't work." While sudden loss of power can seriously damage a computer due to lack of cooling, no apparent damage occurred. Each machine had to be reloaded, which required approximately three hours per machine.

The blackout is supposed to collect floating trash, which, in this case, comes from the river. "Something that has tripped a circuit breaker, you don't just go and turn it back on," according to one employee.

Commons remain compulsory

By Harold Fedrow

Compulsory commons will remain a part of the student dining plan.

While this term will see transferral privileges to 20 Charmeens and the opening of the Commons for week-end use, the central feature of compulsory commons remains.

Dean Kenneth Waldo, in a letter sent to those participating in the compulsory plan, explained that they checked the box on the Bureau's form, the financial obligation still exists unless they are excused for medical or religious reasons.

Compulsory commons results from two premises: (1) that the Institute should provide for itself, and (2) that it is financially unfeasible for commons to be voluntary under these circum- stances.

These two premises come from a study made by the Committee on Student Environment in 1963. The study serves as a master plan on the long-range needs, objectives, and financing. It was published in the Bulletin of the Institute's educational policy's study, made in 1962-63. It covered all aspects of the undergraduate program at MIT, only as immediate and long-range as possible.

The responsibility for policy deci- sions belongs to Dean Waldo, Wadleigh, and the student government. According to the Superintendent's office, the workers are installed and ready to open. The Institute should plan to have a successful petition calling for a referendum to put a fourth pipe up on the campus.

In a recent interview, Mr. Robert Wadleigh, Director of Housing and Dining Services, discussed the commons boycott. He said that the main problem is financial. Food costs are only $4.50 of the budget. The other 55% is taken up by labor, machines, and other fixed costs which show little variation from house to house.

In some instances went off completely, the fixed costs would remain the same. While the food costs would go down, the price per person would increase for those still on commons. It is considered unfair to shift the burden from those who do not participate to those who do.

Wadleigh said that the Institute tries to make commons as accessible as possible to everyone. There are compulsory commons in every dorm.

Since 1881

Engineers dig Great Court

Photo by George Flynn

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This action is being taken by the University to prevent the regres- sion of non-science students and to help the growth of science research.

The system of compulsory commons was introduced to avoid any robbery, but no one was hurt. There was no serious inconvenience that Lowell, able to serve hot lunches, only underwrite and meet the demand.

The Institute instead of existing atmosphere of holiday good- naturedness. One secretary said that she was sorry that she hadn't been typing anything, so the could have stopped and enjoyed it. The others replied that what seemed to be a hot lunch, the weather obligingly took the form of an occasional light rain and a warm breeze.

The blackout left a great deal of work. While sudden loss of power can seriously damage a computer due to lack of cooling, no apparent damage occurred. Each machine had to be reloaded, which required approximately three hours per machine.

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