Dining service robbed; safe looted of $6000

By Joe Kunk
Burglars smashed open the safe in the Student Center Dining Service office sometime Sunday night and stole about $6000.

The burglar team, which weighed about a thousand pounds, was found lying face up on the floor at 9:10 Sunday morning by a janitor who came in to clean the office.

The burglars tried to punch in the lock, but failed because the soft metal of the lock melted together. Then they pried off the face of the door with a crowbar. The face was covered with 1/8-inch steel. Officials said a cold chisel was used to cut away the metal. The concrete floor where the safe was located was stained with sweat. No forcible entry

One puzzling aspect of the crime was the absence of any detectable signs of forced entry. The lock and door to the office were bolted, and the burglar party, fights with the Student Center doors. It was also assumed that at least a few people heard the noise, as people go to the Student Center library all night. Also, the Marine

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Simmons gains Apollo post

By Ted Lichtenstein
Prof. Gene Simmons, a geophysicist in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, has been appointed to a part-time position as chief scientist for the NASA Manned Space Center in Houston. Simmons' job will be to coordinate the engineering efforts for moon flights to better serve the aims of scientific research.

Dr. Robert Gilruth, director of the Center, said Simmons "will add tremendously toward the achievement of NASA's major goal of the scientific exploration of the moon."

Shift to research

The appointment is regarded as a shift away from the operational side of the operation of the scientific community for the moon program's shift of emphasis from developing space transportation to re-search effort. It comes after criticism of the direction of Apollo's moon flights. Soon after the Apollo 11 flight there were several resignations from people who felt that the Apollo program was being slanted in the Apollo Program Office, in the space program in general.

One resignation was that of Dr. William N. Hess, full-time director of science and application at the Houston center. Simmons will, however, be filling Hess' old post as an engineer, an Air Force communications officer, and a part-time space craft analyst. His current research efforts range from studying marine geophysics to laboratory work on materials.

Hoffman hits Chicago trial

An estimated 1500 people filled Lowell Hall at Harvard Sunday night to hear Abbie Hoffman and the lawyers of the Chicago Conspiracy Trial.

The Chicago Eight are Hoffman and fellow Yippie Jerry Rubin, Ronnie Davis, Lee Weiner, John Froines, Tom Hayden, pacifist Dave Dellinger, and Black Panther Bobby Seale. They are on trial in Federal Court in Chicago for allegedly "conspiring to cross state lines" to incite the disturbances at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

That trial was the theme of the Lowell Hall program, which was sponsored by the National Lawyers' Guild, a group of radical attorneys who specialize in Movement cases. Speakers scored the trial as yet another example of fascist repression. Funds for the defense were solicited from the large, jubilant and perhaps overworked audience.

The first speakers, Eric Sykes of the Lawyers' Guild, described the Guild's work and the need for lawyers to defend Movement people in what seem to be a grim moment. Furthermore, several cases were mentioned of examples of cases such as that of the Panther 21 which he alleged, attempts by the government to remove the leadership of the Movement by imprisoning its leaders. Thus was set the theme of political repression through the courts which was maintained throughout the evening.

Next was Stu Ball, a law student working with the defense team, who described the conduct of the trial, which has been described in one national periodical as "a circus." He gave examples of harassment, both inside and outside the courtroom. He described the conduct of the mandirals at the court house, noting that while long-haired types were subject to a "Great Wall of noise" from the gallery, "afterwards you're ready to make love," most people were more interested in the trial than the proceedings. How many spectators had been in the courtroom that afternoon, that sixteen others raised their hands when asked, "How many of our friends are here?" Two of the defense lawyers, Gerry Lefcourt and Leonard Weinglass, spoke next. Judge

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The last person left the Student Center Dining Service office at 2:00 am Sunday morning, leaving the burglars a maximum of six hours to crack the safe.

Tests showed that heavy foot traffic was evident throughout the Student Center floors. It was also assumed that at least a few people heard the noise, as people go to the Student Center library all night. Also, the Marine

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For their part, IL workers appear in general to be counting on the MIT administration to maintain order and access to the IL buildings. It is reliably reported that strong assurances have been given to IL personnel by the administration that their rights of access will not be curtailed.

William Denhard an IL employee who was instrumental in organizing last week's discussion has circulated a letter expressing the belief that militant action by IL workers against SDS is not an appropriate response in a world which already had too much mistrust and hate.

AWARE OF LAB REACTION

President Howard Johnson at his weekly meeting with students on Friday alluded to the IL-Lab employees' reaction to the SDS threats. In answer to a question, he remarked that MIT was currently talking with leaders. One IL administrator stated "I hope they (IL-Lab workers) don't get involved."

Michael Draper, an IL staff member, characterized the situation as "very tense" and added that the IL-Lab would be "very much more the front line of our struggle against SDS."

For their part, IL workers do not foresee any conflict of interest problem. Simmons cites the Apollo project as a means of extending our research capabilities. He predicts that between now and 1972 we will see a significant increase in scientific knowledge due to the project.

"With background and current interests are quite divergent, a working style which he enjoys. He holds a BS in electrical engineering, as well as an MA in geology and a PhD in geophysics; he has been a petroleum engineer, an Air Force communications officer, and a partner in a consulting business. His current research efforts range from studying marine geophysics to laboratory work on materials.

"I-Lab Reaction"

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