Clogged drain floods Burton

By Harvey Baker

"The guy that did that ought to be arrested with a warrant." With these words, Herbert Woodson, Housemaster of Burton House, characterized the culprit, perhaps a student, whose innocent "hack" caused a flood of the entire first floor of Burton House Monday night.

Several huge wads of computer tape were found at the bottom of the main drain; they had effectively stopped up the drain so that no water could pass through. As a result, the water backed up the drain, flooding the men's rooms, and ultimately the entire first floor of Burton House.

A plumber who was called in to repair the damage stated that the cost of fixing the back-up would be very high, and that he was convinced that the block-up was deliberate. Several people involved expressed the opinion that the hack was accomplished by flushing long lengths of the tape down the toilet repeatedly until a jam had been effected. The practical joker had obviously spent the better part of several hours to accomplish his deed.

The clean-up process began about midnight. Because of the jam, the plumber conferred in the vicinity of the elevator, causing it to cease functioning. Consequently residents had to use the stairs for the most of the evening to ascend to their rooms. All the rugs on the first floor had to be taken up, because they were saturated with water. This process itself took several hours, and at this writing, the men's rooms are still not dry.

For about a week prior to the flood, some students, many from Burton House, had been seen walking around the institute grounds, trailing long lengths of computer tape behind them, and stringing it around trees, buildings, etc. Many people consider it likely that these same students are responsible for the Burton flood.

At the bottom of the drain, the entire first floor of Burton House was ankle-deep in water, and access was blocked off.

An interesting sidelight to the story is that while the repairs were proceeding, signs were posted on the lavatories asking students to abstain from using them for the duration of the process. One student nonetheless ignored the sign, used the toilet, and, according to reports, managed to deposit fecal waste directly on the face of a plumber working at the bottom of the toilet drain. The comment of the unfortunate plumber is unprintable.

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Women's Day March 8: liberation teach-in here

International Women's Day is Sunday, March 8, and the local women's liberation chapters are planning a conference for the day before in room 1-390 at MIT.

There will be a public forum on the preceding Friday night at 8:00 pm to which the public is invited. The topic of the forum will be "How Women Lost the Control Over Their Destinies and How They Can Regain It." On Saturday, admission is restricted to women only, as panels and seminars will continue in 1-390 throughout the day commencing at 10:45 am. Participating in the day of discussion will be representatives from the Feminists for an Adequate Welfare, Boston Women United, National Organization for Women, and Bread and Roses, among others.

The idea to set up an International Women's Day dates back to 1908, when the suggestion was first made at a Socialist Party convention in this country. They proposed at the time that a Sunday be set aside each year to rally women to the cause of their equality and emancipation. The first public celebration was in 1909.

In 1914, International Women's Day was celebrated by German women demonstration in protest of the arrest of radical Rosa Luxembourg. In 1917, women workers in Petrograd, Russia spontaneously chose that day to go on strike against the overthrown Tsarist lines and terrible living conditions.

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