Tech Square manager bans bikes indoors

By Paul Schnidler
Paul L. Butts, manager of Tech Square, has issued an edict that bicycles will not be allowed in offices there.

Butts sent a letter to all office managers on October 18, on the subject of Bicycles and Motor Bikes. It read, in part, "Under no circumstances are bicycles or motor bikes to be brought into our buildings. This severely re-stricts our liability protection under our various insurance coverages. It would also present a hazardous problem in case of fire."

Several factors brought the situation to Butts' attention; in addition to insurance problems, there were tenant complaints about bicycles in the elevators, and complaints by security men about problems with the glass doors.

The major tenant complaint has been that bicycles overcrowd rush-hour periods. The security guards had more serious com-plaints as the attention drawing feature of the glass doors cannot easily be overcome by a person with a bicycle if he is not assisted by someone else. The concern here is that someone may break the glass and injure himself.

The ban of the fire hazard fear, according to both Butts and the buildings insurance company, is that people will attempt to remove their bikes from the building during a fire. Since the elevators are turned off in the extraction, this would mean bicycles in the stairwells, according to Butts and that would be intolerable in an emer-gency situation.

Asked why bicycles were any more a hazard than any other personal property, an insurance company employee explained that they "are bulkier and more expensive."

The 545 Tech Square building, which contains Project Mac's elevators, during V1 office, once belonged to MIT in cooper-ation with Cabot, Cabot and Forbes. The automatic closing share of the project in the spring of 1971. (The Techs, April 9, 1971) Since that time, MIT's space has been rented from various buildings like 545 Tech Square.

Forbes, told the Tech that Butts had indeed been advised to post such a notice by liability firms, as a result of recent inspections. "If these recommendations are not followed, the insurance may be cancelled."

The inspections of buildings like 545 Tech Square are periodic, and are usually followed up to check on the adequacy of measures taken.

According to one Project Mac official, that the notices have been posted in the past, but do not generate much student or staff comment until a major effort is made by security people to keep bikes out of the build-ing. No such effort has yet been made as a result of this latest notice.

A quick check of the building last week revealed that bicycles are still kept in a fair number of offices, and this reporter was not prevented from taking a bicycle into the building.

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Nixon dinner marred by mass demonstration

(Continued from page 1)

At approximately the time Mrs. Nixon was introduced in-side, police noticed that a car (belonging to the Boston Herald Traveler - Record American) had been set on fire, and the deci-sion was made to disperse the crowd from the area.

Again using dogs and horses, and moving in with nightsticks, the TFF drove into the body of demonstrators, dividing them into small groups and into all directions. One group continued down the Woodward side of Commonwealth Avenue and into Kenmore Square, breaking win-dows at the Peter Fuller Callaide-Olds dealership on the way. Later, a group of tactical patrolmen were detailed to Ken-more Square, and remained there until the dinner at the Armory had ended.

In addition to the window smashing at the car dealership, windows were broken in the vicinity of the Armory, and small fires were set, though they were quickly extinguished once firemen arrived.

The police reported that seven persons had been arrested throughout the disturbance, during scuffles with police, fire, by the Boston tactical police, and two by state police.

The police report stated, "A person acting on her own, in the space rental business, and MIT is just another tenant, with a very good tenant. Its presence at 545 does not make that building into a campus building. There are still commercial tenants there too. These bikes make it hard for other people to use the building. All other tenants have wholeheartedly concurred with this announce-ment."

When asked about the securi-ty of bikes left outside, Butts noted that there were bike racks at 565, and that to his knowledge, no locked bike has been stolen there.

The insurance company for the building, Isaac McAllister and Forbes, told the Tech that Butts had indeed been advised to post such a notice by liability firms, as a result of recent inspections. "If these recommendations are not followed, the insurance may be cancelled."

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