Boston frats must alter stairs

By Daniel Nathan

Back Bay fraternity houses face a costly renovation of their staircases in order to comply with a city safety code.

The safety rating, which went into effect Jan. 1, 1975, has a clause requiring that the large circular staircases be enclosed as a deterrent to the spread of fire from floor to floor. A code also calls for two safe means of exit from each floor, a need the renovated stairways would meet.

The clause requiring enclosed staircases differs from most other clauses in the code because it applies retroactively to buildings that are already completed.

The costly building of a cement wall around stairways is complicated by a stipulation in the code that any building built partially renovated at a cost of 20 per cent or more of the building’s worth must be renovated to meet the complete code. Buildings are generally exempt from sections of the code enacted after their completion. For many of the Back Bay houses, renovation to meet the complete code would be equivalent to “gutting the entire building,” according to Jack Galuardi, Interfraternity Conference (IFC) vicechairman.

Several committees are trying to use the fraternities’ predicament. The IFC safety committee, working with safety and maintenance experts from Physical Plant, has been thoroughly evaluating houses “building-code-wise,” according to Galuardi. However, their written report with costs and suggestions will take a long time to prepare. A thorough evaluation producing no written report takes only about 2 to 3 days, Galuardi added. The IFC safety committee will come out with a safety booklet in the near future, containing ideas and people to contact for the various problems.

In addition, the Dean’s Office has been working with the MIT Safety Office and Physical Plant on a “self-inspection checklist” to continually keep the fraternities’ eyes open for needed improvements, according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Ken Browning ’66. Much of this booklet, which will be available in the fall, is the result of work done last IAP to compile the parts of the Boston safety code that are relevant to fraternities.

Although the fraternities are separate from the MIT dormitory system, MIT “has the responsibility to give them the stamps of approval,” Browning said. Because freshmen are generally required to live in a dormitory or fraternity, MIT has an obligation to see that fraternity houses are safe to live in, Browning said.

He added that the IFC, the Safety Office, Physical Plant, and the Dean’s Office have helped many fraternities by recommending contractors to do wiring, plumbing, and other construction. These offices can also recommend alternative methods of meeting the safety requirements, such as enclosing stairwells, which sprays a cascade of water down the stairwells in case of fire.

This is “definitely much cheaper” than enclosing stairwells with concrete walls, Galuardi stated.

Psychiatric Counseling
For College Age Adults

COLLEGE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
Located in Prudential Center. For information call 292-9316.

SAVE A FRIEND’S LIFE.
FOR A DIME.

The space donated by The Tech

---

6-1 and 6-3 Students Wanted

Students needed to provide input to EE&S Department policy. The Student-Faculty committee officially represents Course 6 students to the department administration.

This is especially important to the future of Course 6 policy. Sophomores and juniors especially wanted.

Bush Room (10-105); Wed., Sept. 22 at 4pm. Refreshments. "Foam Rubber Is Our Business"

FOAM RUBBER
AND POLYURETHANE FOAM & DACRON
FOR EVERY PURPOSE
CUT TO ANY SIZE & SHAPE AT NO EXTRA CHARGE

DISCOUNT PRICES
MATTRESSES - CUSHIONS - BOLSTERS
PILLOWS - PADS - SHREDDED
IMPORTED DANISH DESIGN FURNITURE & COVER REPLACEMENTS
Made To Order In Vinyls & Upholstery Fabrics

FOAM RUBBER DISCOUNT CENTER
Telephone 264-4019
Allston
STORE HOURS: DAILY 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M., SAT. TO 5 P.M.

Schedule of Jewish Religious Services

ROSH HASHANAH
Friday, Sept. 24
Traditional Services
Kresge Aud.
6:00pm
Creative Services
Chapel
7:30pm

Saturday, Sept. 25
Traditional Services
Kresge Aud.
8:30am
Mincha-Maariv
Kresge Aud.
5:30pm
Creative Services
Chapel
9:00am

Sunday, Sept. 26
Traditional Services
Kresge Aud.
8:30am
Mincha-Maariv
Kresge Aud.
6:00pm

YOM KIPPUR
Sunday, Oct. 3 (Kol Nidre)
Traditional Services
Kresge Aud.
5:00pm
Creative Services
Chapel
5:00pm

Monday, Oct. 4
Traditional Services
Kresge Aud.
8:30am
Mincha Neilah
Kresge Aud.
4:30pm
Creative Services
Chapel
9:00am

Yom Kippur ends at 7:05 pm

SUKKOT
Friday, Oct. 8
Kosher Kitchen*
9:30pm
Saturday, Oct. 9
Bush Room
Mincha-Maariv – Kosher Kitchen
9:00am

Sunday, Oct. 10
Bush Room
Mincha-Maariv – Kosher Kitchen
9:00am

SHMINI ATZERET – SIMCHAT TORAH
Friday, Oct. 15
Kosher Kitchen*
5:30pm
Saturday, Oct. 16
Bush Room
Mincha-Maariv – Bush Room
9:00am

Sunday, Oct. 17
Bush Room
Mincha-Maariv – Kosher Kitchen
9:00am

* The Kosher Kitchen is located at Walker Memorial (Bldg.50, Rm. 50-005) in the basement.

HOW TO GET TO THE ROOT OF YOUR PROBLEMS.

Buy the Model 852 calculator from National Semiconductor at the Harvard Coop.
It’s a square root for you. Not to mention trig and log functions, degree/radian conversions, Pi, and a zillion-and-a-half other terrific things like that (e.g., scientific notation).
And at a suggested price of under $35, that solves another problem for you.

2 National Semiconductor