



This section of crumbling concrete in one of the roof edge beams of Kresge Auditorium prompted last Friday's closing of the building for an indefinite period of time. (Photo by Kevin Osborn)

Weak roof closes Kresge Date to reopen auditorium indefinite

By Tom Curtis

Kresge Auditorium has been indefinitely closed following the discovery of loose concrete in the auditorium's roof edge beams.

The problem was discovered while workmen were doing preparatory work for next year's scheduled replacement of the roof coating system. When the workmen removed the lead coating near the western abutment of the roof, they found several inches of loose concrete. They removed some of this concrete, but decided to stop before too much of the beam was taken away.

William R. Dickson, Director of Physical Plant, ordered the closing Friday afternoon. Although Dickson says he strongly doubts the roof will collapse, the possibility exists and therefore Kresge was closed. The closing

was recommended to Dickson by the firm of Ammann and Whitney, the structural engineering consultants who had aided the original Kresge architect Eero Saarinen. Since Kresge opened in 1955, the firm has periodically advised MIT on structural matters pertaining to Kresge.

Dickson said he is working on the assumption that Kresge will not be reopened before next spring's replacement of the roof coating. Thus, Kresge could be closed until next September. He did not completely rule out a reopening this winter, but he did rule out a reopening within the next two months.

Engineers are now analyzing Kresge to find out how much deterioration has occurred and why it occurred. Apparently, the

problem was caused by water seeping under the roof; however, the reason for the seepage is unknown, according to Dickson. Dickson says the analysis will also check the other two Kresge roof abutments. However, he says he knows those abutments are in better shape than the western one.

Dickson said he is "absolutely positive" that some repairs will need to be made before Kresge can be reopened. He also said he thought it was "very likely" that the lead coating and all the other materials that cover the concrete would be taken off now to lessen the stress on the concrete, and would be replaced by a temporary covering. Originally, the lead coating was not to have been removed until spring.

As a result of the Kresge closing, several events had to be

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UAP charges chairmen with fear of power loss

By Erik Sherman

UAP Jonathan Hakala, '81, claims that the Nominations Committee Chairman Jerry Hammond, '80, and the Finance Board Chairman Tom Colten, '80, are fearful for a loss of their personal power.

Hakala stated, "destructive criticism [of the constitution] that has emerged is a reaction by a select few with much power under the existing setup who do not want to share it in any way, shape, or form." When questioned as to the sources of this criticism, he responded with the names of Hammond and Colten.

UAVP Chuck Markham, '81, believes that their reaction is a mixture of an inferred threat to their power and an actual concern for a well-framed constitution.

Both Hakala and Markham addressed themselves specifically to several of the criticisms leveled at them. They asserted that they have not spent time on the constitution at the expense of other activities.

"I put time into the constitution issue only after I put substantial amounts of time into other issues such as social events, academic policy, and financial policy," stated Hakala. "I feel somewhat offended that Jerry Hammond suggested that we spent too much time on it. He was not in Cambridge at all during the summer; we were." Markham affirmed this; "That's a lot of rhetoric. It's simply not true!"

Concerning the Steering Committee, they claimed that it is merely a combination of the Agenda Committee and Executive Committee under the present constitution; it would have less power than the Executive Committee does now.

Under the new constitution, the Steering Committee would have the power of veto over the GA. This could be overruled by a two-thirds vote by the GA. Hakala claimed that it is now possible to have a never-ending chain of vetoes between the GA and the Executive Committee.

It was stressed that the constitution in its present form was only intended as a rough draft. They had expected criticism to be forwarded directly to them. "I am disappointed," said Hakala.



Quarterback Bruce Wrobel G drops back to pass in Saturday's win over Norwalk Community College. The 18-8 victory was the first for an MIT football team since 1900. See other photo and story on page 8. (Photo by Matthew B. Alschuler)

Apathy causes UAC reorganization

By Agnes Huang

"The Urban Action Committee (UAC) acts as a volunteer clearinghouse. We locate those who want to do volunteer work and turn them over to the organizations that need them," explained Chris Wheeler, '81, acting director of UAC, at an organizational meeting held last Thursday.

The committee is receiving a new facelift this year, according to the spokesman, because of apparent student apathy. "Ten to twenty years ago, UAC was a part of TCA (Technology Community Association). In 1969, it became independent," Wheeler said. However, reduced student interest in joining the committee has resulted in a re-establishment with TCA to "keep it afloat."

Dick Fletcher, the second member of the UAC trio, stated that "less student activism" was the main reason behind the decline of UAC. "In the early days (mid 60's), the UAC people were getting a lot out of their volunteer experiences and were sharing it. That element went away gradually," he added.

Although UAC does not sponsor any specific volunteer activity, several area organizations work



closely with the group and the MIT community. Services include volunteer tutoring and working with the elderly, handicapped, mentally ill, young kids, teenagers, and other people within the community.

At the meeting, several service organizations sent representatives to interest students in their activities. For example, Tutoring Plus, Big Brother-Big Sister, Group School, and the Council of Aging sent delegates.

Volunteers are needed for these community activities, commented Fletcher, but "Urban Action also needs people to join the committee. At present, we have only

three members, Sue Temple ['80] Chris Wheeler, and myself."

According to Fletcher, the major objective of UAC, at present, is to "get it going again." Plans for the future are dependent upon student response to the organization. "It's a lot of fun and you learn a lot," grinned Fletcher.

Unlike many organizations, UAC is unable to offer any incentive for joining the group other than, as Fletcher put it, "the satisfaction one gets from doing volunteer work."

Anyone interested in doing service work is urged by the Urban Action Committee to call TCA at x3-4885 and leave their name at the desk.

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The third in a series of articles about the histories of MIT buildings examines the LCA house, sometimes called "the governor's mansion." **Page 3.**

The recent closing of Kresge has compounded the space problems of the performing arts at MIT. **Page 4.**

The Boston Shakespeare Company's experimental production of *King Lear* proved to be an excellent way to start their fifth season. **Page 6.**

The football team won its first game since 1900 with an 18-8 victory over Norwalk Community College. Jeff Olsen '81 led the team with two touchdowns. **Page 8.**