MacGregor is reopened

By Ben Stanger

MacGregor House residents began returning to their rooms yesterday at 8 a.m. following a twelve day evacuation period resulting from a complete loss of power in the dormitory.

Rain from a severe storm soaked the MacGregor basement in the early morning of Aug. 1. The flood incapacitated all MacGregor electrical systems, including sprinklers, fire alarms, water pumps and emergency backup power, according to MacGregor House Manager Kenneth H. Wolff.

Wolff said that all clocks in MacGregor had stopped at 3:30 a.m., the probable time at which the water sheet-circulated the power plant.

Housing Maintenance Manager Gus Perry said pump motors and other emergency generators were submerged under 30 inches of water, and the dormitory was no longer safe for students. He decided to evacuate the 160 residents of MIT dormitories slightly after 7:30 a.m.

To evacuate a dorm of this size is a major undertaking,” Wolff said. Wolff worked with Property Director for Physical Plant to get room assignments for the residents. Wolff said everyone received their comments on Aug. 1 and should have moved out by that evening.

Physical Plant workers used pumps to remove the water from the basement. The water was out within a day, Wolff said.

Perry said emergency power was restored as dusk after the flooding, and full power was restored the next day.

Sawyers Building residents in the basement of MacGregor were also damaged by the water. Maguire said the belongings would be brought to the MacGregor TV room and aired out until the term begins. Perry said MIT insurance would probably cover some of the damage.

Both Wolff and Maguire commended MacGregor residents for their cooperation. MacGregor residents were “real troopers,” Maguire said.

Alumni grants raise fund to new height

By Mathews M. Cherrin

The 1995 Alumni Fund grew to a record $10.1 million this year, according to Joseph S. Collins, director of the Alumni Fund.

The rise marked the sixth year in a row that total dollars contributed to the Alumni Fund have achieved a new million-dollar giving plateau,” Collins stressed that the Alumni Fund is a large part of the MIT Corporation, the governing body of the Institute.

Contributions to the Alumni Fund are invested in 15 categories of which comprises the core needs of MIT: unrestricted funds, student financial aid, and professorships. The highest four categories cover a variety of expenses, including construction of buildings.

The amount contributed to student financial aid increased 20 percent over last year to $1.6 million. Two years ago, Gray asked that money be raised specifically to support student financial support, Collins said. The money contributed to student financial aid was then drawn down dram-

Another area to which the Alumni Fund is actively encouraging contributions is the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF). Alumni cannot take charitable deductions for money they give directly to the independent living groups.

The IRDF was established as a way in which alumni could give tax deductible money to MIT. In turn, provides low-interest money to the independent living groups for renovations.

This drainage system has not worked very well, and created puddles of water have increased the salt damage to the cement, Gifun pointed out. “It’s a comment of poor cement and poor drainage.”

The wearing slab is not bonded to the structural slab, and damage to the structural slab is “only minor,” Gifun said.

Gifun did not know the type or condition of concrete used in the rest of the Student Center. Debra Foresman, the original engineer for Catalano and Associates, who has been working with Gifun, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

“We’ll be working weekends if we can because we’d like to get ahead,” Gifun said. The contractors have had to work overtime to get jackhammering done between conferences held in the West Plaza buildings, he explained.

“We’ll continue that practice when [the term starts] and grab a few hours here and there on the weekends if we need it,” he added.

Construction round-up

Most of the remaining work on Amberth Alley will be finished by the end of August, according to Director of Physical Plant Paul F. Barrett. Only brickwork and landscaping are left.

By Diana ben-Aaron

Barrett said, and “some large trees have to be transplanted, but we’ll do that later in the fall because that’s a better time.”

Contractors are renewing the traffic surfaces in the East, West, and Albany Street garages, which have suffered from the same problem as the Student Center steps; oil and salt from the road dries off the undersurfaces of the cars and erodes the concrete. “If you let it go, it would become a structural problem,” Barrett noted.

Physical Plant is also overseeing the sandblasting and repaint-

Salt reacted with concrete on the West Plaza steps to cause flaking. Construction will not be finished for R/O.

The Tech Photo by Ronald E. Becker

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Physical Plant is also overseeing the sandblasting and repaint-

of structural steel in the MacGregor House. The work was done in the summer because parking needs are lower at that time. The majority of the work will be done before school starts, and then we will proceed on a flood-by-flood basis.

East Campus and Senior House renovations will be complet-

ed on schedule, according to Housing Office Maintenance Manager Gus Perry. Most of the work will be completed by Aug. 20, "our original deadline," Perry said, and "loose ends work that does not affect students — should be tied up by the 26th."

Landscape on the pathway between McDermott Court and Ames Street will be done by the end of August, Barrett confirmed, "and likewise for the courtyard, which is in front of the residents have worked out on the Housing Office."

Senior House residents will be able to move back into the house on Aug. 26, said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood. "The Housing Office is very aware of when R/O starts, and we have set a date of the 24th to finish everything," Sherwood commented.

Repairs to Senior House included new hallway carpets; a new energy-saving hot water system; new shelves, sinks, and radiator controls in student rooms; and conversion of basement rooms to make room for Project Athena terminals.

Conversion of the old Hayden Gallery in Building 14 to a performance space “is still at the formative stages of cleaning up and actual design,” Barrett said.

Diana ben-Aaron