No harm from chemical spill

By Ronald E. Becker

Two plastic bottles of methyl acrylate fell from a cart in the basement of Building 3 last Thursday just before noon, resulting in the evacuation of several of the surrounding buildings by MIT Campus Police.

The maximum possible concentration of methyl acrylate that could have been released into the area was well below the "no-effect" level of 30 parts per million, according to a calculation by George W. Boylen Jr. of the MIT Environmental Medical Service (EMS) [Tech Talk, May 28]. "The bad part was the smell," said Boylen. The bottles of methyl acrylate were being transported from the loading dock in Building 11 to Laboratory Supplies. The bottles fell off the cart in front of the Quick Copy Service, where Buildings 3 and 11 meet. The worker who spilled the chemical began to clean it up, but EMS was soon called onto the scene because of the complaints of methyl acrylate's acidic, plastic odor.

Diane Sawyer speaks at Wellesley

By Robert E. Malchman

CBS News Correspondent Diane Sawyer told Wellesley College's graduating class Friday that she hoped its members are "on the front edge of another spiritually restless generation, that your slightly older brothers and sisters would not: the banner for your slightly older brothers and sisters would not: the banner of human sympathy."

Sawyer, a member of Wellesley's Class of 1967, made her remarks as the College graduated 216 seniors at its 108th Commencement exercises.

"I'm not talking about songs and posters and sentiment, but ideas," Sawyer said, "and at the end of the day, a bottom line of lives that have been improved."

"It's fine and even inspiring for an instant to join hands across America. But you don't have to wait for a national pop rally to help someone who is hungry," she continued.

A number of graduates wore carnations as they passed in front of the College trustees to indicate their support for divestment from corporations operating in South Africa.

The College has $35 million invested in such corporations, according to a press release from the College. The College has $35 million invested in such corporations, according to a press release from the College.

The Material Safety Data Sheet for methyl acrylate distributed by the MIT Safety Office states: "If the odor of methyl acrylate can be detected, the TLV (threshold level value, 10 parts per million) has been exceeded."

However, the Safety Data Sheet also indicates that the "TLV is established to prevent lacrimation (tearing) and other irritating effects."

Methyl acrylate is a highly volatile liquid which is used in the production of plastics and which is widely used around the Institute.

The Tech

SUMMER 1986 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, June 24
- Tuesday, July 15 — Special color issue mailed to all incoming freshmen
- Tuesday, August 12

Regular Tuesday/Friday publication will resume at the beginning of R/O, Friday, August 29, 1986.

The Tech photo by Ronald E. Becker

Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Section Head for the Undergraduate Academic Support Office, Holliday C. Heine '67 will be leaving the Institute at the end of June. Heine said that a desire to do something different, and a need to leave the busy MIT atmosphere to find a new job were the primary motivating forces in her decision.

Heine transferred to MIT from Wellesley as an undergradu- nate. She received an SB in 1967 and in 1973 she earned a PhD in Biochemistry. Heine taught the undergraduate introductory biology lab, 7.011, for two years. This one-on-one teaching experience was what prompted her to apply for a position in the counselling division of MIT.

She entered the Dean's Office after post-doctoral work at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She entered as an assistant dean in the counselling section of Student Assistance Services and was promoted to her current position when the Dean's of- fice was reorganized in 1980.

Heine intends to continue in science education, but has no immediate plans for her future, preferring to take her time to decide what she wants to do.