

McCoy 515 Survives Flash Flooding

Suite Residents Wet, Fear Toilet's Future Actions

BALTIMORE, MD – Residents of McCoy 515 on the Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus were left ankle deep in toilet water late Sunday night when an unforeseen problem in the bathroom plumbing caused intense flooding across the suite. Containment efforts are currently underway, and damage to the suite mates' personal property is expected to be minimal, though no official estimates were available as of press time.

Trouble started when resident Matt Bassett entered the kitchen area to find the bathroom and kitchen were awash in an inch of water. Water was rapidly spreading to the adjoining rooms, but Bassett could do nothing but stand in awe and watch as water spewed from the toilet. Says Bassett, "I didn't know what to do, the water just kept coming." Suite mate Robert Johnson later emerged from his room and attempted to stem the flow of water by "jiggling the john", but was ultimately unsuccessful.

The commotion in the suite attracted the attention of suite mates Brendan Houle and Eric Basu who were watching football in the 5 West television lounge with friend Bill Spier. Upon Houle's instance that Basu help Matt and Rob because they are, as he says, "a bunch of idiots," Basu proceeded to the suite and exclaimed, "Turn the knob! Turn the knob! Turn the knob! Turn the knob!" but was unable to do anything himself. Basu later explained that he did not wish to get his sneakers wet.

Realizing the severity of the situation, Houle and Spier rushed in and as Houle pulled off his sneakers, already barefooted Spier removed the toilet cover and cut the flow of water by lifting the filler float, often called the ball float. Soon after, Houle relieved Spier from continuing to hold the ball float by closing the valve on the pipe protruding from the wall and was able to stop the water from entering the toilet at all.

Recovery efforts were quickly underway as residents proposed different containment methods. Ultimately, Basu's plan to use bowls and scoop the water into a trashcan won out over Bassett's plan to throw down a roll of paper towels. When word spread of the suite's sudden conversion to a water park, floor mate Zach



Hutzayluk arrived in beach attire to join the debacle. Progress with the bowls was slow, which prompted Houle to place a call to security requesting the procurement of a wet-vac to aid the cleanup process. It wasn't until after the carpets had become saturated did maintenance arrive with the vacuum an hour later. In addition, maintenance placed a dehumidifier in Houle's room for the night as most of the water went straight to his room due to a small slope in

the floor. When asked to describe sleeping with the dehumidifier running, Houle replied, "It's loud, damn loud."

Observers note that most of the flooding could have been avoided under different circumstances. Upon discovering the extent of the flooding, Security Officer O'Leary questioned if there was simply nobody in the suite when it happened. Basu and Houle informed the officer that the two engineers of the suite were out, which the officer replied to by asking, "So this place was filled with a bunch of Writing-Sems then?" Bassett, taking great offense to the disrespect being shown to his major, replied that his major had nothing to do with his inability to stop the toilet's flooding. A member of the Johns Hopkins HERU first aid squad, Bassett is not one to usually freeze up in times of emergency. Suite mates and friends of Bassett are currently investigating exactly what caused his inability to react. Since the incident, Houle has been taking precautionary measures and has taught Bassett what to do, should the problem emerge again.