A nice place

The biggest problem facing MIT today is finding places for its students, both undergraduates and graduate, to live in; places which offer, at least partly, a sense of comfort, and access to the Institute and still remain close to the limits of reasonable cost to the student.

It's not hard to see that a problem exists. Every living situation at MIT has been crowded six to a bedroom apartment in a hastily leased building on West Street, three quarters of a mile from campus. Fraternity houses, Pi Lambda Phi, are crowded three quarters of a mile from campus; three quarters of the undergraduates and graduates, many of whom find themselves faced with tougher codes. Since a majority of MIT's 3,300 students are crowded for the last month by both undergraduates and graduates, most transfer students, and single students who can't get into a, undergraded or Ashdown House all must compete in a ridiculously over-burdened apartment market.

What about Eastgate or the East squares which are now under construction? The fact is that to get into Eastgate has meant a one or two year wait for most. Even when an apartment is available, it will only momentarily delay the waiting list, and there won't be any changes for months. Students' families still forced to live in the decaying apartments that now serve as student homes.

The truth is that even with the considerable help of the Community Housing office, it's almost impossible to get a decent and still not outrageously priced apartment in Cambridge. There are two types of apartments in Cambridge—moderately expensive, and 'you're serious' priced newer buildings. A typical, new two bedroom apartment will rent in excess of $250 a month, which is almost prohibitive even split four ways by single graduate students.

Yet the impossibility of getting a park-like sticker and the rapid increase of tryng to rely on the MBTA to get you to the campus keep most apartment dwellers from seeking such comparatively inexpensive and physically safer neighborhoods like Watertown, Arlington and Brighton.

The only gainers are the Back Bay and Cambridge landlords who keep piring their already amazing cut of students' income. According to realtors we have contacted, less than half the number of Cambridge apartments available last year were up for rent this year. In such a seller market already inflated rents rose $20 or $30 a month. The situation isn't likely to be much better next year. According to realtors we have contacted, less than half the number of Cambridge apartments available last year were up for rent this year. In such a seller market already inflated rents rose $20 or $30 a month. The situation isn't likely to be much better next year.

Unlike the Institute hastes construction of the proposed Graduate Center with its additional housing, and even more 'permanent' student apartments in addition to Eastgate, or decides to acquire existing apartment buildings to be rented to students, the severe housing crisis of the past two years will not be alleviated.

MIT is fast becoming a nice place to visit where nobody would want to live.