Dorm contest to save electricity announced

By Mike McNamara

MIT dorm residents have a chance to win $100 prizes this winter in a contest to see which dorm has the most

Prizes will be awarded each month to the dormitory which uses the smallest fraction of its expected monthly electricity use in a contest sponsored by Physical Plant, the Housing and Dining Services, and the MIT Environmental Engineer.

The contest will begin with the month of November, according to John Sallay, '78 (TDC). Announcement of the November winner will be made this week, Sallay said.

The contest is part of efforts by Physical Plant and Environment-

mental Engineer Carl Haage to make the MIT community more aware of energy usage and possible conservation measures, Sallay said.

Increased prices for oil and gas, and the MIT effort to conserve energy, have cost the Institute over $1 million more than was budgeted for energy in the last year.

Wining dorms will be chosen on the basis of usage standards established last year by Physical Plant, and energy savings will be taken on electricity usage, and the dorm which has used the least of its allocation will be awarded $100.

"If this contest increases energy conservation at all," Sallay said, "MIT will save money from it." Haage has calculated that a 1 cent per month drop in electricity usage will more than pay for the monthly prizes, Sallay said.

"We wanted to apply the contest to other energy sources as well as electricity," Sallay explained, "but usage of steam (for heating) can't be measured easily, and standards haven't been developed for its usage, so we're just comparing electricity usage.

The contest was scheduled to start in October, but poor publicity efforts on the part of the UA kept it from being effective during that month. The October prize has been divided between November and December, so that the winner in each of those months will receive $50.

Sallay said that figures compiled in October showed that East Campus used only 70 per cent of its allocation; other dorms used just less than 100 per cent of the expected amount, except for Old Campus, which used 83 per cent of the expected electricity.

"Sallay said that allocations might need to be adjusted on the basis of this winter's experience.

"This is a case where the UA is trying to help the students, and where MIT has a chance to save money," Sallay said. "I hope that the contest is a success.

The contest will be interviewed students interested in business for the position of Advertising Accounts Realizable. Call John Sallay at 2151-40 or 494-9420.

Recessions to be worse than any since WWII

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 Wage and price controls imposed between August, 1971, and April 30, 1974, for the "creation of economic distortion," saying that artificial shortages were created when prices on a global level rose above domestic prices.

The disturbances affected utilities, according to Bleiberg, so the data and models traditionally used have been reduced in many cases to a port of "gamsery." Inflation may have been worsened by errors in computing the gross national product (GNP), and indicator of the country's productivity. Bleiberg gave examples of such errors and explained that because the decline in the GNP was over-estimated, an imagined "gap" between actual and potential production was created.

Bleiberg also said that official price indices do not present a true picture of the inflation problem because "the threat of renewed controls is so tangible that businessmen are keeping their list prices as high as possible.

Certain government statistics, including GNP and balance of payment figures, "may be worse than reality," in Bleiberg's opinion. However, he suggested that small inconsistencies or "tangible quantities," such as reports from the National Association of Purchasing Management and a help wanted index compiled from advertisements in 52 major newspapers are helpful statistics.

The economic outlook is "not entirely bleak," according to Bleiberg, especially where the stock market is concerned. He compared the technical aspects of the stock market to "the workings of a fine machine," which may from time to time go out of adjustment. Currently, he said, although industrial stock prices are at a twelve-year low, utilities are up from this year's low. The utilities' index shows a "loss of momentum downward," according to Bleiberg, who said that the decline in long- and short-term interest rates is also encouraging. I spirit of the "unprecedented duration of this decline," he believes that stocks will retain their "fundamental desirability" for investors.

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