Westgate rent hike withdrawn as fuel consumption declines

By Michael Garry
The Housing Office has withdrawn the $5 per month increase it imputed at Westgate last month. The increase, withdrawn after it was determined that the 20 cent reduction in fuel consumption would make the amount of fuel being used and consequently the overall fuel costs for Westgate residents.

Westgate residents did not believe the consumption was justified, saying that the additional fuel costs cited by the Housing Office as the reason for the rent increase were produced by the inefficient heating system, which wasted fuel by keeping the temperature in Westgate apartments uncomfortably high. According to Brammer, of the 74 per cent of the residents who paid their March rent, 66 per cent did not pay the $8 increase. Those residents who did pay the increase will receive credit toward their April rent, he added.

In January, Brammer noted, the Housing Office was able to predict some saving in fuel consumption on the basis of improvements that had been made in the heating system. The rent increase, added, was consequentially $4 lower on the average per month than what was originally estimated as the amount rents would have to be raised to counterbalance additional fuel costs. The 20 per cent reduction in consumption finally realized was in addition to the predicted saving, he said. The Housing Office hiked rents at Westgate last September by an average of 20 per cent, also in response to the price of oil, which had been sent by the Middle Eastern oil-producing countries. Reactions to the price rise would not be seen in the course of several months, the Housing Office did not make the September increase as large as it had planned. "We didn't want to hit them with the entire increase in September," Brammer explained, "because we wanted to see if the price of oil would fluctuate."

"We're watching oil prices in fluctuated," Brammer said, inducing the Housing Office to impose the second increase in March. Westgate apartments, Brammer observed, have been over-used.

By William Lassar
Jewish MIT students have formulated a "vigorous effort to educate the MIT community on the complex and volatile political situation in the Middle East and to influence United States policy toward Israel.

One such group is the MIT Emergency Action Committee, which is investigating and distributing information about the situation in the Middle East. The Committee's main concern, says President Steve Feld '76, "is to clearly define the American interests in the Middle East. The Committee's main concern, says President Steve Feld '76, "is to clearly define the American interests in the Middle East."

The group also hopes to "indirectly influence American policy decisions.

The Emergency Action Committee is not involved with raising money for the State of Israel, but has set up a booth in the lobby of Building 10 which sells to per newspaper and magazine articles.

Another active Jewish students group on campus is MIT's "Attila. Currently, Attila is sponsoring a letter-writing campaign to members of the US Congress, urging them to pass the "Arms Bill," which would require Congressional approval for all arms shipments outside of the United States.

MIT's cooperative ties with Israel, by manning booths on campus to solicit money. A national fundraising drive for Israel, but has set up a booth, in the lobby of Building 10 which sells to per newspaper and magazine articles.

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"We feel that it is strongly in the American interest to support Israel," Feld said. "Besides the moral considerations, which are strong enough, there are many purely geo-political reasons why the US should continue to present policy of support for Israel."

"Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East," he said. (Please turn to page 8)

US foreign policy failed? Not so, Bloomfield says

By Mike McNamee
African foreign policy is "in the eye of the storm," waiting between the violent shake-up of the 1960s and a "constructive period of reasessment and growth ahead."

Far from thinking US foreign policy has "collapsed in the wake of the set-backs of the last two weeks, Professor of Political Science Lincoln Bloomfield feels international relations have simply "passed in a continuing era of reassessment."

"The shape of the United States future world role has been unclear since at least the Tet offensive of 1968," Bloomfield told The Tech last week. "The US had been of an unfamiliar role, which has been very costly and onerous to maintain. The time to reassess came, and has come.

Bloomfield, recently returned from a visit to Moscow, was interviewed by The Tech in his Hemen building last week. The interview covered a broad spectrum of issues in foreign affairs, an area in which Bloomfield is a widely-respected authority.

"The illusion of collapse, Bloomfield said, was due to the coincident misinformation of having several simultaneous setbacks in foreign relations. But, he said, "it would be wrong to think that the collapse has actually happened."

"Big news": Vietnam
"The big news," Bloomfield said, was "the sudden collapse of the regimes in Cambodia and South Vietnam," while the Khmer Rouge and the Provisional Revolutionary Government have made extensive military advances in the last few weeks. Bloomfield presented his