Flat rate electric charges would raise tuition: Gray

By Glenn Brownstein

MIT students should expect tuition and rent increases in the immediate future if uniform electric rates are introduced through passage of Question 7 on the Massachusetts referendum ballot next month, Chancellor Paul E. Gray said in a speech to the Boston University audience last Wednesday.

Citing an estimated $1.5 million increase in annual costs that would result from the flat rate proposal, Gray, in a report on the referendum issued this week, stated that the bill's passage would require MIT to increase tuition, housing, and food rates and reduce research and possibly academic programs.

The bill, which requires all utility companies in the state to charge a uniform rate per kilowatt hour of electricity through their consumer system, would raise MIT's charges from $3.32 to 4.46 cents per kilowatt hour, a hike of nearly 25 per cent.

Since student dormitory rents cover the costs of operating the houses, revised room charges would reflect the entire per room impact of the rate increase. For example, undergraduate students' rents would go up an average of $31 and graduate students (electric bills comprise about seven per cent of an undergraduate student's rent, according to an estimate made by H. Eugene Branner, Director of Housing and Food Services).

Branner's projected increases, figured at $37 annually for single graduates and $79 per year for married students, are based on a nine-month use of the dormitories. Summer session occupancy of dormitories, Branner added, could slightly lower the future annual impact of the rate increase.

The effect on tuition is not as easily defined. "We've got to pick up about $31 million somewhere through tuition and research, but we don't know how much we'll have to fall in," explained Assistant to the Chairman of the MIT Corporation Walter A. Miller.

Proponents of the bill contend that the proposal will lower charges for small users and discourage increased demand for electricity by large users. They justify the one-third increase in electric rates by explaining that electric costs represent no more than two per cent of production costs, and that subsidizing large users is unfair to smaller consumers.

According to Gray, uniform electric rates do not recognize the investments required of bulk users. "Bulk purchasers take electricity in large amounts at high voltages (15,000 volts) in MIT's case) and install and operate their own transformers, and distribution lines to convert the power into usable form," Gray stated in the report. He added that MIT must also pay for wasted electricity within its own system.

"We don't get the same commodity that the residential consumers do," explained Vice President of Operations Philip A. Stoddard. "It's like the difference between a gallon of crude oil, which we get, and a gallon of gasoline, which the residential customer gets."

Although the new legislation would provide immediate short-term benefits for the small consumer, Gray argued that the long-term impact of the referendum could be just the opposite. Business' price increases to offset the rise in utility charges could result in an overall boost of all consumers' electric bills, he contended.

The Chancellor said that large businesses might ask for the same service (lower voltages, utility-provided equipment) that smaller consumers now receive, adding to system-wide cost. He cited the additional possibilities of hospitals, businesses, and residences that privatizes the utility service (lower voltages, utility-provided equipment) that small customers now receive, adding to system-wide cost. He cited the additional possibilities of hospitals, businesses, and residences that privatizes the utility service.

Swine flu programs underway

By Stephen House

The swine flu vaccination program will swing into high gear at MIT next Monday when inoculations for the entire MIT community begin.

Inoculations for "high risk individuals" started yesterday and will continue through today and tomorrow in the Bush Room. Students of Operation of Nurses for the Medical Department, defined "high risk individuals" as those with chronic illnesses and all those over the age of 60.

Laurence Bishoff, associate director for administration of the Medical Department, stated that only 10,000 shots will be made available for our 23,000 active patients. He added, however, that he expects far fewer people to come. Bishoff noted that people who would like to be inoculated must sign a consent form which will be available starting Wednesday in the Medical Department lobby.

The inoculation available to "high risk" patients will contain both swine flu and A/Victoria vaccine. Swine flu is the flu strain that surfaced last year for the first time in the United States. According to Jones, the swine flu vaccine could be much less effective in certain age groups.

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East Campus focus of redirecting fight

By Mark James

Residents of East Campus will vote in the fourth district Massachusetts State Representative election between City Councillor Saundra Graham and Representative John J. Toomey unless a "no action" vote is taken, according to the Recorder. According to Toomey, the decision might be important in the on-going battle between the two parties for control of the city council.

The Middlesex Superior Court will hear Wednesday Toomey's appeal to the decision reached last Thursday by the Cambridge Election Commission to place East Campus ward, precinct five, a part of the fourth district.

Ben Ross, head of voter registration for Graham, said that the decision might be important his candidate, because he expects the students in East Campus to vote heavily for Graham.

Ross added that "two out of three of the last city elections were decided by less than 200 votes."

East Campus residents voted for the past 27 years in precinct three of the second ward, which until this year was in the same district as precinct five. Preston, three is quality for lower one, in which Democrat Michael J. Lombardi is running unopposed.

Toomey declared further comment by the matter to be "before the court."

City Solicitor Russell Higley described the decision as "changing the [district's] lines just before an election. The statutes of Massachusetts — the way I read them — don't permit that."

Election Commissioner GeorgeGovernor said that while the ruling "could be an issue," he was "fairly confident that it's correct."

He added that he would favor a precise charge today, tomorrow, or at Nov. 2 if it corrected an error.

According to Ross, the con-

The Boston firefighters union has called on Boston Deputy Building Commissioner Leo F. Martin to resign after he stated that he would not sign the union's contract as he sees it.

Rhode Island Nationalists leaders said Monday that they "completely reject" Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's plan for peace. Formal talks on black nationalism and the state's relationship with Rhodesia will be suspended.

Scientists at the Stanford School of Medicine reported that chimpanzees may be useful predictors of earthly species. Biochemist Dr. Helen C. Kramer said that chimps at Stanford's primate facility showed a significant increase in restless behavior day before two minor tremors.

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