Space Lab to study motion sickness in space

By Gordon Hunter

When the European Space Agency's (ESA) Spacelab I is carried into orbit by NASA's Space Shuttle, Byron Lichtenberg, a graduate student in the Department of Astronautics and Astronautics at MIT, will be an American member. One of the principal parts of the motion sickness experiments is a "space sled," a cage mounted on four and a half meter long rails that the subject will sit in to experience linear accelerations. Lichtenberg worked on the sled for his Ph.D. thesis.

Owen K. Garriott, one of the mission specialists and scientists on Skylab II, is one of many astronauts who have experienced motion sickness in space. He said that for the first few days in space, a sufferer feels nauseous and even if sick, can experience a 25 percent proficiency loss in his work due to disorientation. After this, Garriott said that the sufferer becomes immune to the sickness and feels "absolutely fantastic." (Please turn to page 9)

Tuition jumps once again

By Steven Solesick

Tuition at MIT for the 1980-81 year, Changeli- lor Paul Gray announced this week. The eight and one half percent hike, the tenth consecutive year, MIT's mandatory fee will be incorporated into the tuition figure — outside hospitalization insurance will remain separate. The $275 million (Please turn to the list in the 1979-80 catalog to $330).

The tuition increase is prompted by a budget deficit for fiscal year 1979 which is estimated by Director of Finance John Currie at $280 thousand. MIT's status as a university (a non-profit organization) with a budget deficit enables it to incur tuition above percent wage and price ceilings established by the Carter Administration.

Director of Financial Aid Jack Fraley indicated that the decision on whether to increase the equity level (self-help expectation) next year would probably be reached after "discussions with the Chancellor and Academic Council early in March." The figure for the deficit is calculated assuming MIT uses all unrestricted funds which would otherwise be earmarked for the endowment. Last year, MIT generated a $6 thousand surplus after applying restricted funds to close the $2 million operating gap in its $319 million budget. In 1976, the Institute was forced to tap the endowment funds to close the budget deficit. The result of these repeated operations has been a budget deficit that has been operationally closed the last decade has been ultimately decrease the net worth of the endowment (currently valued at nearly $275 million) over the last decade.

By Leigh J. Passman

A letter to approximately 130 undergraduates notifying them that they had been excluded from the 'Student Work-Study eligibility limit' stirred widespread rumors that students would be disenfranchised from their on-campus jobs.

Nelson Armstrong, director of the Student Employment Office of the Student Financial Aid office, assured The Tech that "no one has been terminated" and in- dicated that the anomaly reaction of some stu- dents and their empley was the result of misunderstanding and overreaction.

The letter, dated January 10, 1979 and signed by Armstrong, informed students of their term-time earnings for the 1978-79 academic year through December 27, 1978. It continued, "Unfortunately, this is over- and above the College Work-Study of Term-time eligibility limit granted to you for the semester (or academic year)." The notified students were then asked to visit the Financial Aid office.

Nelson Armstrong of the Financial Aid Office is the director of the Student Employment Office. He is interested in helping out," he said. When asked whether people wanted to impress on the whole college, Armstrong said, "No. People are interested in helping out." Students who designate their gifts for scholarships or other funds, Sclar added.

By Eric Starkman

Cambridge fights MBTA

Later this month the city of Cambridge and a neighborhood coalition will file suit to stop the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) from extending the Red Line from Harvard Square to Porter Square on the grounds that the MBTA violated the agreements it had with the city and its residents.

The merits of the case will rest on whether the MBTA may use the same Environ- mental Impact Statement (EIS) in- tended for a proposal to extend the line to the 128 junction in Arlington. The Red Line Alert, a coalition of three Cambridge neighborhoods, charge that the MBTA violated three federal statutes by applying the original EIS to its new plan, extending the line only to Porter Square.

The city will also press charges, but has not yet decided whether to file a joint or separate suit. City Manager James L. Sul- livan proposed that the city share the (Please turn to page 9)