Financial aid office boosts student equity

By William Cinino

The Financial Aid Office has raised the student equity level for the 1979-1980 academic year. For the past two academic years the equity level has held at $2500. The new level, set at $2650, is a six percent increase from last year or a three percent increase from the last two years.

Jack Fraley, the Director of the Student Financial Aid Office, stated that, "the equity level represents the amount of student need which we ask the student to provide with our help, either through term-time work or through loans." If the financial need of a student is equal to or exceeds the equity level then a National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) will be automatically provided to the student.

The student equity level includes the projected earnings from the period beginning with the fall term to the end of the spring term. This also includes any earnings from IAP. "We know that $2500 is too much to assign a student," Fraley said, "for earning during the academic year, but part of that may be in the form of an NDSL loan of up to $1100 to $1200 which the (student) can either accept or reject. This leaves about $1500 which the student must provide." Fraley said. The loan funds are allocated according to need and are automatically included as part of the financial aid package. Since a loan ultimately must be repaid, the students receiving such loans retain the right to either accept or reject the NDSL loan offered by the Financial Aid Office.

The student equity level, one of the parameters used to calculate financial aid, has increased only six percent over the past two years, while tuition has gone from $450 to $100, an increase of about seventeen percent. The student budget has gone from $8000 to $8900, an increase of about eleven percent during the same period.

Fuller comments on 'spaceship Earth'

By Michael Tavin

Although he is over eighty years of age, R. Buckminster Fuller is still going strong. At the LSC-sponsored lecture he gave Wednesday evening he had no difficulty finding material to talk about. Rather, Fuller had trouble knowing when to stop.

The themes for the lecture were change and man's place on this planet. At least, that is the direction that most of the subjects Fuller touched upon led in. But he didn't let himself get tied down to a specific topic for the entire evening.

"I don't think there's ever been a greater time than the present for humanity to come to know so much about our planet and that local universe," Fuller then proceeded to prove this point by telling his audience everything that humanity now knows. A by no means complete list of all the topics that he discussed includes:

- energy
- environmental engineering
- spectroscopy
- astronomy
- communications
- metallurgy
- language
- and many more.

To him, every invention, every idea or theory, every facet of our planet and its inhabitants is something unique and wondrous. "When I was thirty-two years old," he said to his audience of a thousand, "I decided to experiment to try to find out what an individual might be able to do... for all humanity... that great nations... could not do." Fuller's experiment has taken up the rest of Fuller's life and led him to many fascinating discoveries about the world around us.

He told about how amazed he is that humans have come so far, so fast, so well with so little going for them. He is particularly skilled in any physical manner, in fact, "with muscle we can't even compete with the donkey." But somehow we have made it to the point where the standards of living of the inhabitants of "spaceship earth," as he calls our planet, has increased almost 112-fold during this century.

"We must be very important to be given this kind of access to knowledge... Nature didn't provide us with an instruction manual!"

But after pointing out that

Current American foreign policy may be edging dangerously toward involvement in a third world regional war, according to Ron Newman's column on today's opinion page.

Two first rate movies open today in Boston. One is The China Syndrome, an adventure murder mystery written and directed by Joel West, starring Jack Lemmon and Jane Fonda.

The Innocent, another five-star movie, is the final work of the late Italian director Luchino Visconti, and destined to become a classic.

This year's NCAA basketball championship tournament is winding to a close, but the way things are going there's no way to be certain which team will come out on top.

The MIT men's fencing team placed fifth in the Eastern Championships, and placed three of its members in the NCAA Championships being held next week.

We now have the capability to make it, but it's going to depend on your personal effort... Whether we make it or not, it's not a matter of how our leaders behave but is a matter of how humanity itself behaves... Birth is the most dangerous time of all. We are at birth."

Commenting on the achievements of his administration, Newman stated that a start had been made in opening up communication with the student body and the MIT community as a whole. He cited fragmentation as a problem, noting that the living group is the primary boundary of interaction and that many living groups have had negative attitudes. He also mentioned, in connection with communication, that "it would be nice if people were more responsive to their General Assembly (GA) reps," noting that they are the primary input to the UA from the students.

Specifically talking about the GA, Newman said that it had a "lot to offer," explaining that it had had two years of problems, including a president who never called meetings for it. He also noted that it was often difficult to get enough GA representatives, elected by their living groups, to meetings to have a quorum. This in his words made it "difficult to make it [the GA] a working group."

Newman indicated several factors that affected the performance of his administration. Only a lack of time hindered progress by the UA. He also mentioned some problems with students not taking the UA seriously enough. In Newman's view, the key factor was the help offered by Institute Vice-President Simoniades, who (Please turn to page 9)