Massachusetts students rally in support of nuclear freeze

By John J. Ying

Last Tuesday, thousands of students rallied at Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst to mark Nuclear Freeze Day in Boston.

In states, including Massachusetts, and twenty-five cities and counties nationwide have placed a nuclear freeze referendum on their November 7 ballot.

Student groups, such as the Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control, have demanded immediate freeze at the current level of nuclear weapons. Senators Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) have introduced a resolution to Congress calling "to achieve a mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and future deployment of nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems."

Last month, the nuclear freeze movement encountered its first political setback. By a vote of 204-202, the House of Representatives narrowly endorsed an Administration-backed proposal that supports the recently begun Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in Geneva and prompts the US and the Soviet Union to freeze nuclear weapons at "equal and substantially reduced levels."

President Ronald Reagan has argued that the idea of limiting the number of nuclear weapons, but has argued an immediate freeze would permanently lock the Soviets into a position of superiority. Reagan proposes a freeze "after we have been able to negotiate the Soviet Union into a reduction on both sides of all kinds of weapons."

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Student activities seek space

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The Association of Puerto Rican Students is also looking for office space. "We were accredited by ASA seven or eight months ago, and we've been looking for office space since then," said vice president Maria Elena Lara '84.

The ASA executive committee allocates student activity office space in the basement and on the fourth floor of the Student Center, and some space in Walker Memorial. Other student activity offices in Walker are assigned by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs.

"I don't need a lot," said SEDS' Dardos, "just a desk, and a file drawer."

MIT names OME chief

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Professor William Ellis, the first director of the office, MacLaurin was named OME director September 1, succeeding Clarence Williams, Special Assistant to the President, who was acting director while the committee searched for a replacement.

MacLaurin hopes to stimulate interest in science education in high school students to pursue science-oriented careers. The new director said he is appalled that Massachusetts has no state-wide high school science or math requirements.

"There is a tremendous amount of gifted, intelligent minority students out there, and MIT must make an effort to get them here," said MacLaurin.

OME's primary function is to provide academic support to minority students. The office runs Interphase, a seven-week summer program of intensive preparation and tutoring classes for entering freshmen, a "buddy system," matching freshmen with upperclass student counselors, a seminar on managing academic and studying time, and a student-staffed tutorial program four nights a week.

OME also operates a "freshman lunch," to try to identify freshmen's problems before they become overwhelming. The OME receives reports on freshmen academic performance, and works closely with advisors and instructors to correct any problems.

MacLaurin emphasized the OME is "not about social treatment -- we just try to be helpful."

MacLaurin first became interested in science education in 1979, when he ran a summer program at Brandeis University for students gifted in science.

MacLaurin received his doctorate in Biology from the Harvard Medical School. He specializes in experimental hematology.

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