Candidates attack Star Wars

By Julian West

Two Democratic candidates for the Massachusetts 8th Congressional District seat spoke at the anti-Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) rally last Tuesday. Both called for an end to SDI, the national space defense research program.

Calling for “peace and prosperity,” Cambridge attorney Carla Johnston called SDI “a waste of money” and compared the space weapons protests to the movement against the Vietnam war.

Johnston, who has styled herself as a “stretch a buck” candidate, is also an established anti-nuclear campaigner, and has been active in the Union of Concerned Scientists.

State Representative Thomas M. Gallagher said there were probably “millions” of technical difficulties with a space weapons program, but selected four high level one to spit out in detail.

First, he judged SDI to be impossible in principle, without having “15 or 16 nuclear wars to practice.” Second, he pointed to possible offensive capabilities of space weapons as a destabilizing influence, drawing applause by saying the United States should end SDI “if we are in fact the peace loving nation that we say we are.”

Third, he said SDI would “drown arms control” talks. Fourth, Gallagher predicted that the Cold War response to SDI would be to build more nuclear missiles.

SDI was diverting the public attention from needed arms control, Gallagher said. As an example, he pointed to the lack of coverage for the recently ended Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing, which was scarcely mentioned in the US press until after the latest Nevada test.

He sympathized with scientists who were attracted by lucrative military contracts and fascinating war-related research. He proposed that the government promote other programs, such as transportation or medical research. “Boston does not have a mass rapid transit system,” he pointed out, and suggested cures for cancer as another possible research area.

The United States was losing its lead even in “hard, pure sci-

PHYSICS OPEN HOUSE

Freshmen and Undesignated Sophomores are invited to explore the possibilities offered when majoring in physics, at this annual event. Information will be available on curriculum, departmental divisions, Society of Physics Students, Sigma Pi Sigma (Honor Society) and UROP. Faculty and present physics majors will be on hand to discuss options and opportunities.

REFRESHMENTS

TUESDAY

APRIL 8

3:30 PM

4-339

WEST PLAZA SCHEDULING

Applications are now being accepted for the Fall Semester for the Student Center, the Chapel, and the West Plaza Grounds. At this time there are some slots still available for Resnge Auditorium. Applications may be obtained in the Campus Activities Office (W209-345). Below is the chart for deadlines and approval dates.

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<th>TIME PERIOD</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
<th>APPROVED BY</th>
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<td>September - December</td>
<td>May 1, 1986</td>
<td>May 12, 1986</td>
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Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis after May 12, 1986. Reservations for IAP will not be held until October 1986.

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Tech photo by Jerry Brooks

Mark W. Echin ’88, dressed as a Soviet ICBM, demonstrates against the anti-SDI movement.

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