

Opinion

U.S. should surely stick with 'Star Wars' defense

In the wake of the Wiley Lecture Series, this year about the nuclear arms race, I for one, want to stick up for the Strategic Defense Initiative.

SDI, better known by its misnomer, "Star Wars," is a long-term plan to provide for the defense of the United States, and consequently the Western world, from nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. From its inception, SDI has been accused of everything from breaking down arms talks, to taking the arms race into the heavens.

The latter accusation assumes that Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles, which would fly through our hemisphere if used, are not already intruding upon the heavens.

At the Wiley debate, Robert McNamara, President John F. Kennedy's Secretary of Defense, claimed that the deployment of SDI would undermine deterrence of nuclear war, because the Soviets would think the United States would have first-strike capability.

Let's hope they think so. One of the most powerful things SDI has done for us thus far is to give us the biggest bargaining tool the U.S. has had since we invented the atomic bomb four years before the Soviets. The Soviets are scared of SDI and we should continue to use this fear throughout the next few decades to the United States' best advantage.

In the past few years, every time the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have tried to negotiate (Rejkavic and Geneva), one thing has prevented the talks from progressing to an agreement — SDI. The Soviets will not agree to any strategic missile treaty unless SDI is included in the bargaining.

Reagan and his aides have stood

tough through years of pressure, public dismay, and for good reason. Once SDI is included in any arms package, the Soviets will not stop until there is no strategic defense program.

Meanwhile, Reagan sits on the side of the bargaining table with the most powerful bargaining tool in the world.

Questions have been raised as to whether technology can meet with the expectations of the SDI program, whether the complex system will work with effectiveness, or whether we will still be alive when SDI is ready to be installed.

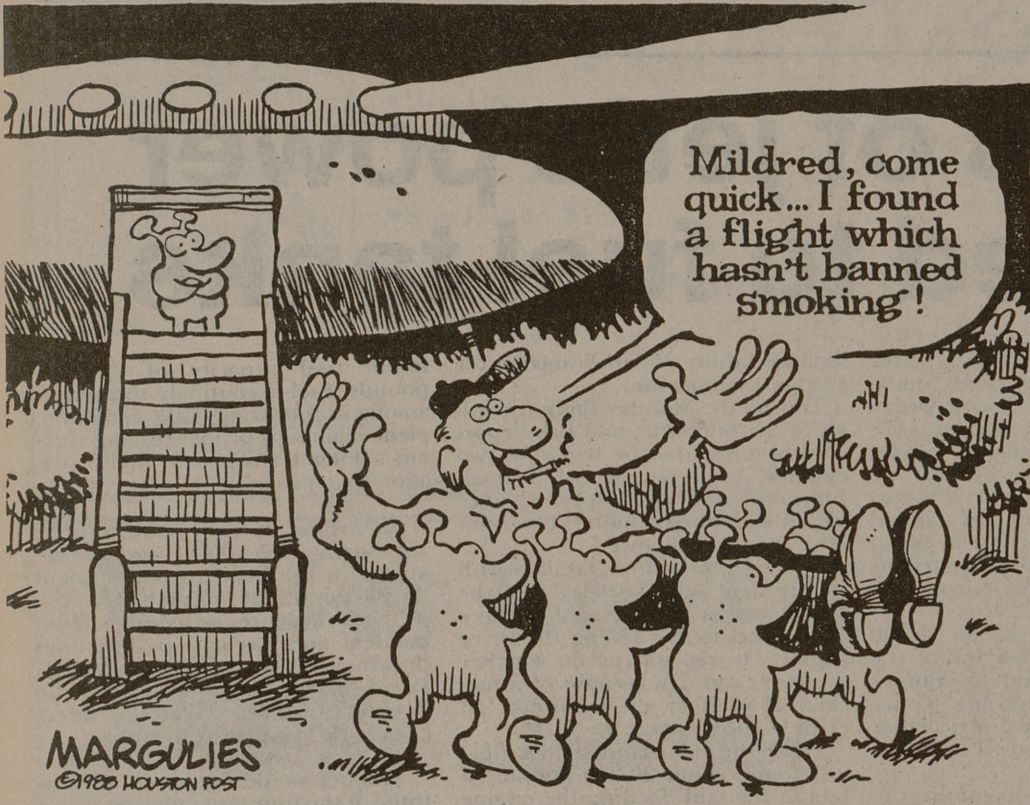
These are questions for the future, but presently, the people who put SDI should question their opinions.

Is it wrong to want a system that protect your children from nuclear attack while presently giving us a bargaining tool against the Soviets?

Give SDI a chance. **Timm Doolen is a freshman philosophy major and a columnist for The Battalion.**



Timm Doolen



MARGULIES
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Mail Call

Why the new streamlined cars?

EDITOR:

Has anyone wondered recently about why our UPD felt it necessary to buy those new two-tone blue police cars with the streamlined lights?

Maybe it's so the UPD can stay hidden and poised to pull over those terrible people who exceed 30 mph around Olsen Field or the Fish Lot. Or maybe it's so that they can get into high speed chases and capture those heinous bicyclists.

I think next time they should spend their money a little more wisely. Perhaps by buying some beautiful new ticket pads, or by opening a telecommunications line with A-1.

Chris Samsury '90

Wilson 'coldly cops out'

EDITOR:

In his May 2 column, Anthony Wilson states that "No one has an excuse for... injecting heroin into his system or drinking so much so often that he becomes addicted..." He then goes on to say that we should stop feeling so damn sorry for them.

This is a rather cold and self-righteous way of addressing the problem. To say that it is not my fault, and therefore not my problem is an ethical cop-out and will only serve to perpetuate the problem. The issue should not be whose fault it is, but how we can help this person get back on his or her feet. To go up to a person who is down and out and say, "It is your own fault that you are an alcoholic or a drug addict, so tough luck," is not the kind of action I would expect from a self-professed Judeo-Christian society.

Alcoholism is not a disease in the sense that cancer is but alcohol is an addictive agent the same as drugs and nicotine. People who become addicted, regardless of how they got that way, need our support and help. They do not need our scorn and contempt. They have enough of that.

We can only solve our problems as a society if we are willing to face up to them. While trying to place the blame for these addictions on the addicts lack of will power may seem like an easy way to shift the guilt from our shoulders, it really only gives people an excuse for ignoring the problem.

Mike W. Thomas '87

Free will choices determine conduct

In Anthony Wilson's article, "Are we apathetic about willful misconduct?", he mentions that we shouldn't feel sorry for people who make the wrong decisions.

There are no excuses to conscious, everyday decisions we make about our personal and social lives. He firmly expresses that our free will determines our conduct and I strongly agree. We should make efforts to help people with severe problems such as rape, drugs, and alcoholism, but we shouldn't feel apathetic about their willful misconduct. It was their choice. Life is a series of choices.

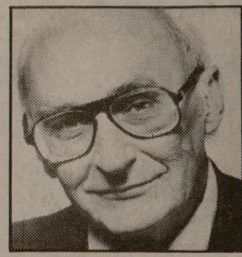
We shouldn't feel sorry or make excuses, but instead teach our society that we are responsible for our attitudes and conduct and that in life, every choice we make, has consequences. So next time you make a choice, remember: one of God's greatest gifts is the ability to choose the way we think, act, or feel. The choice is yours.

Charly Carrington '88

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

Reverend with big heart could lose arms to paroled ax-murderer

It's obvious that the Rev. Thomas Smith Jr. is a compassionate person, a man who believes that nobody is all bad and that even the worst of us can be redeemed.



Mike Royko

Well, it's unfortunate for the Rev. Smith, but some of his neighbors don't share his brand of compassion.

The minister recently decided to provide a home for an ex-convict named Lawrence Singleton.

Singleton, 60, isn't your ordinary, run-of-the-mill ex-con. He wasn't a stickup man, a burglar, a car thief or a swindler.

No, he went to prison in California for a crime that was so brutal, even his fellow inmates thought he was creepy.

About 10 years ago, he kidnapped a young girl, raped her, then chopped off her arms with an ax and dumped her in a gully.

He assumed she would die, but miraculously she survived. Singleton was arrested, convicted and imprisoned.

Because of California's dippy penal laws, he was paroled after less than eight years. That's four years for each lost arm, if you want to figure it that way, with the rape thrown in free.

A parolee has to live somewhere. But every time the state tried to move Sin-

gleton into a community, the residents would raise hell about having a convicted arm-chopper in their midst.

So the authorities kept moving him around, until finally they gave up and let him live in a trailer on the grounds of San Quentin prison.

But now his parole is over and he becomes a free man. He can go anywhere he chooses.

So the big hearted Rev. Smith offered Singleton a job and a home on the grounds of his church in rural Oregon.

However, those who live near his church have less tender hearts. And, the preacher says, they have shown their displeasure. When the preacher and his wife go to the small local town, the natives sit in their pickup trucks and glare and scowl at them. He sometimes hears guns being fired in the distance and suspects that this is an ominous message.

With sadness he says "We believe we will be killed, my wife and I." And he says that he and his wife have wept for those who have threatened to raise their hands against him.

Of course, one could make an argument that there might be people more deserving of compassion and help than Singleton. Our cities are filled with homeless and destitute souls who have never chopped off anyone's arms, or even fingers. Their only crime is to be without skills or jobs. Some have skills, but no jobs.

So it's likely that Smith's neighbors wouldn't be nearly as upset if he had said: "I'm taking in this couple. The

husband's been out of work since a machine crushed his foot in the factory where he worked."

I suppose it's just human nature. Most people feel less compassion when they're told: "I'm taking in the convict who raped a girl and chopped off her arms with an ax. But don't worry, he's mended his ways."

And it's possible that Singleton reformed and won't chop off any more arms.

Even John Gacy, Chicago's most famous mass murderer, did other than besides kill 30-plus young gay men and bury them under his house. He was a hard-working political precinct captain, performed as a clown for children's shows, and had a modest talent for painting. But that's the way many minded people are. Kill a few young men, and who remembers a great clown act?

And as Singleton's prison counsel also said: "The man served his time. He's done all that's required through our legal system. Give the man a chance."

He's right. Singleton served the sentence the law demanded and he deserves a fair chance. Of course, if the law had required that he be dropped head-first off the roof of a tall building that might have been a much fairer chance.

But if Smith's really concerned about his safety, he'd be wise not to give a handy-man Singleton any chores that involve using an ax. **Copyright 1987, Tribune Media Services, Inc.**

Stop the presses! We've got all the scoops

News bulletins I'd like to read:
HOLLYWOOD - Television game show host Bob Barker, animal rights activist, was eaten today by a walrus.
WASHINGTON -



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Surgeon General Everett C. Koop has announced that researchers have discovered smoking isn't harmful to health after all and actually promotes hair growth and renewed sexual energy.

HOLLYWOOD - Judge Wapner, Attorney General Ed Meese's latest nominee to file for the number two position

Lewis Grizzard

in the Justice Department, said today he is withdrawing from consideration for the post and will remain on the "People's Court."

DENVER - In his new book, "Monkeying Around on the Monkey Business," former Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart admits the reason he went into politics was because "it a neat way to meet girls."

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Immigration has said Australian actor Jacko will be deported as soon as possible, thus saving him from any more embarrassment.

BEIRUT - All the fighting and bombing ended here today when all those involved couldn't remember exactly why all the trouble started and who was supposed to be killing whom.

"It just got to be too confusing," said named Abdul said, "so we've decided to stop to organize softball teams instead."

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Vice President George Bush, the shoo-in for Republican nomination for president today selected Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who is black, as his running mate, saying, "That oughta wow 'em!" **Copyright 1987, Cowles Syndicate**

The Battalion

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