Infeasibility
no reason to stop research
(Continued from page 6)

Suggestions for the Soviets include:
cheap decoy warheads, hardening existing missiles and developing
anti-anti-missile weapons. Decoys could be distinguished from real
warheads by tapping them with a weak laser pulse and observing
the recoil. If the Soviets made their decoys as heavy as warheads,
foiling the tap/recoil technique, they would have to
displace real warheads in the payload of a missile, since the main
limit on a missile is its weight.

Similarly, hardening existing missiles, presumably by adding
the shell, would reduce the num-
ber of warheads they could carry.

A half-inch protective shell on
the Soviet SS-18, the largest mis-
sile in the world, would increase
the weight of the missile by ap-
proximately the weight of the warheads it can now carry. If
Szarawarski chooses to elaborate
on "anti-anti-missile" weapons,
maybe there will be a legitimate
countermeasure to consider.

Szarawarski's biggest technical
bungle is his declaration that
"shooting down warheads is not
much different from shooting
down SDI battle stations." Does
he know anything about missiles
and satellites? One of the major
vulnerabilities of missiles to be
exploited in proposed SDI sys-
tems is their lack of armor, re-
quired by the weight constraints
on ICBMs.

The shell of the SS-18, for ex-
ample, is about 1/10-inch thick aluminum. Typical SDI proposals
for hitting these include punctur-
ing the skin with lasers and small
chunks of metal. While the Sovi-
etes are working on killer satel-
lites, satellites are much more
defensible than missiles because
orbiting satellites are weightless
and so can be armored as heavily
as necessary. Armoring a missile
would make it much too heavy.

The bulk of this letter addresses
flaws in Szarawarski's infeas-
ibility argument; however, what is
most disturbing is the reasoning
that infeasibility is cause to
abandon research. Infeasibility means
that research needs to be done;
that's how things become feasi-
ble.

In closing, I request of
Szarawarski and others wishing
to discuss the SDI issues that they
learn about their subject before
offering us uninformed argu-
ments. Much of my informa-
tion comes from the book How to
Make Nuclear Warhead Obsolete
by Robert Jastrow and the pam-
phlet "SDI: The Star Wars Pro-
ject" put out by the George C.
Marshall Institute.

John F. Pitrelli
Kevin B. Theobald

Over 100 Colleges & Universities
Invited!!
Spectacular College Dance
Tonite! Party! Tonite!
All Ages Invited
When: Friday Nov. 22nd 8:30 pm
Where: At the MARRIOTT Long Wharf - on the waterfront, across from the Faneuil
Hall
Gov't Center T Stop
Cost: $10.00, Half-Price $5.00, with this Ad
Proper Dress Required - Dance the Night Away
Rosenthal Productions: For more Info Call 277-1020

WHEREVER THEY LIVE TO ROCK,
THEY LOVE LÖWENBRÄU.