Imperialism and terror marked 1985 politics

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opinion

SDI politics should not dictate research areas

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stitutional integrity. I would add that aside from concerns over the wisdom of SDI, there are a number of concerns which arise in any university research that is sponsored by military research agencies. These concerns have to do with continuing levels of funding over a reasonable period, possible differences in time scales expected by sponsors versus researchers, the fact that campus research efforts have the greatest payoffs when they are directed to fundamental questions. In addition, being able to publish on classified research, a number of concerns which can arise in any university research. There is concern that SDI-funded research may run the risk of becoming classified after work has begun.

Many of the benefits to society derived from research universities in the United States have arisen from the opportunity for faculty to address a wide variety of fundamental questions in science and technology. There are fears that the government's enthusiasm for the SDI program may lead to a displacement of funding now supporting other important areas of research. Similarly, the ready availability of funds for this focused program may draw talented students and faculty away from other promising lines of inquiry. It is essential that the government's pattern of research support remain balanced in order to maintain our universities' remarkable record of contributions.

Three matters have been unsuccessfully addressed by program sponsors and universities in many areas of research over the past few decades, and they deserve serious attention in the case of SDI research as well.

Editor's note: President Gray's column is reprinted by permission from The Tech Report of December 1985, published by the MIT Industrial Liaison Program.

Parking spaces: the final frontier

(Continued from page 4) I suggested to Plebany that his actions were indicative of questionable ancestry.

"Look, you MIT folks have it good. Harvard has virtually no parking for undergrads, and all the surrounding streets are permit parking only."

"But how would you even come up with a deranged scheme like that?"

"Don't tell anyone, but one of the Harvard deans suggested the idea to me when I went in to complain about the parking situation on our campus."

"I see the headline in the Chronicle now: MIT a fine parking lot, says dean; saves university millions in construction costs . . ."

"Now this guy down the hall from me has a really great deal."

"His sister is a student at MIT, but she doesn't have a car. So she got him a real, live MIT parking sticker by claiming that the car is hers."

"So it's not just you?"

"Huh, no. Some of the guys I know have gone so far as to put MIT decals on their cars to deflect suspicion. It's damaging, but it's better than parking at Harvard and getting towed."

"Then any of these cars could belong to a Harvard student - even one that. Standing out amid a sea of rusting Dodge Darts, VW Rabbits, and once-great family dodgem wagons was a shiny silver Japanese coupe sporting an assortment of MIT stickers, with a plush stuffed MIT-Museum beaver on the back shelf and an out-of-state vanity license plate with the letters "BEE VEE". I indicated it to Plebany."

"Why, all of the cars here, would you suspect that one belonged to a Harvard student?"

"I'd suppose someone from MIT could spell better than that."

"Anyway, he pointed out, you can't complain about my using up parking spaces that MIT students need. That space across the street has been vacant the whole time we've been talking."

"So what's wrong with that?"

"It bothers me to see that space empty when some Harvard student is probably right this minute getting a ticket for idling in front of a fire hydrant in the Square. An un-parked space like that offends my aesthetic sensibilities. It's like, uh, ""

"An un-graffitied subway car to a New York teenager,"" I offered."

"No, more like an unscarved block of marble to a sculptor."

"An undefined skyline to Philip Johnson."

"A blank piece of paper to a calligrapher."

"An un-napalmed Vietnamese village to - I was interrupted by the arrival of a mud-crusted, bumphead Beetle with a pushed-in passenger-side door. The rear window had been cleaned just enough to disclose a huge BOSTON UNIVERSITY decal."

"Will, this neighborhood's certainly gone downhill fast. I don't want my Sashimi with the likes of that,"" said an indignant Plebany, who then hopped into his car and sped off toward Mass. Ave.

"Now we can just get rid of those damned BU students we'll really have something."

Metropolitan Moving: We did not cause computer's loss

To the Editor:

Metropolitan Moving and Storage Company as an agent for North American Van Lines arranged Professor Isaac Efrat's relocation to New York City.

The loading, transportation and delivery of this shipment was performed by one of the many agency drivers in North Ameri-
can Van Lines, an employee of Metropolitan.

The fact that Professor Efrat's personal computer was mishandled is unfortunate and does happen.

Fortunately Professor Efrat had replacement cost protection and was totally reimbursed for the personal computer.

Metropolitan Moving and Storage Corporation has for two years provided the MIT community as well as Eastern Massachus-
etta with police, professional removals and storage services.

It is our intent to carry on with this quality of service.

Richard Fishkin Vice President Operations Metropolitan Moving & Storage Corp.