Student groups hold opposing views on SDI

(Continued from page 1) posed to the channeling of this kind of fundamental research into exclusively military use. Cowan cited the case of a physicist working at Lincoln Laboratories as an example of the militarization of research. The researcher had been exploring the use of X-ray lasers in biological systems for the cure of diseases, but is now studying how these same lasers can destroy missiles and other projectiles.

The MIT community is, as a whole, against SDI, Cowan claimed. Although the majority of the students are opposed to "Star Wars," a small minority of students whom Cowan characterizes as "supporters of "government defense by any means at our disposal" is in favor of SDI.

The faculty hold similar attitudes toward SDI, Cowan conceded, but he believed many are nervous about taking a stance on an issue for two main reasons. First, the Department of Defense just determining the truth." It's a sign of retreat: initially they had emphasized the technical impracticality of SDI, then its strategic difficulties and now the "militarization of the campus." It is to him a classic case of "jumping from one pot to the other when the water gets too hot" because by now almost everyone, according to Pitrelli, has realized that SDI is feasible.

However, SND perceives some people within the MIT community opposing its ideals. SND remains confident that it will be able to garner support from most of the community, regarding the anti-SDI movement as "pretty bankrupt" and "more than just a vocal minority opposed to SDI," according to Pitrelli. He asserted, but supporters tend to look at a best case support because their stance implies the maintenance of the status quo.

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