

*I gave 'em a sword. And they stuck it in, and they twisted it with relish. And I guess if I had been in their position, I'd have done the same.*

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# OPINION...

## "S.D.I., University a poor mix"

by MIKE MacKINNON  
Senior Editorial Advisor

The recent refusal by the Mulroney government to become directly involved in research into the Strategic Defense Initiative is one lauded by many peace groups throughout Canada. However, a second look at the decision reveals that this is just one more of Canada's safe fence-sitting solutions to a problem. While our government tried to protect its integrity it has really reduced its credibility. No other nation is going to respect our stance on disarmament simply because we have refused to become directly involved in Star Wars. Our scientists can still become involved, as well as our universities. While it would be nice to say we are not taking part it is highly unlikely that all Canadian scientists will follow the example of our government.

What about universities? Should we at the university level take part in this research? In the United States, the nation to benefit the most from such research, opposition to university involvement is coming from the scientists themselves. Many of them are circulating a peti-

tion among their colleagues demanding they refuse to take part. Unfortunately, many others are lining up for lucrative research grants.

These scientists are concerned about the prominence of military research and development spending on campus, placing the bulk of research money into small part of the research area, the possible threat to arms control agreements and the potential new arms race, and restrictions on scientific findings and a reduction in scientific communication due to some of the work being classified.

There are other concerns that must be raised as well. If SDI contracts are accepted by individual scientists it could be seen as an endorsement by that particular educational institution for SDI. For example, both Caltech and MIT were forced to object to their names being used for a research consortium to be set up by the SDI organization. Although certain faculties were taking part, the institutions themselves were not. However, the fact that even some faculties were involved means the institutions at least supported research.

Another cause of concern is the possibility of a large amount of funds being used for military research will take people away from other necessary areas of research. In the States, for example, the Department of Health and Human Services is the largest source of funds in R and D. However, the military contribution is increasing at a pace greater than that of other sources and is expected to be padded with another several hundred million dollars in the next five years due to SDI research.

With a government enthusiastically pursuing more advanced methods of waging war it is hardly surprising that the Department of Defence is able to put so much into R and D. Due to an ever increasing defense budget coupled with cuts in budgets for non-military research it is to be expected that scientists would embrace military research. Sad as it may be, ideology will always suffer when there is a lack of funds for research in areas other than the military.

It is likely that Canadian scientists and universities will still be able to take part in SDI research.

## "Absurdity, C.S.L. and politicians

by BARRY PARKINSON  
Brunswickan Staff

"Where the hell was my story?" seemed like a good approach at the time. Even now, as deadlines loom on the horizon, I still don't have things straight...but who has time to deal with a rabid columnist these days anyway?

An explanation: Last week I wrote about the investigation which centred on John Bosnitch and the finances of the SRC. The case was closed with no charges laid as the police could find no evidence of wrong-doing. Wonderful, right? Well...not exactly.

Just because the police found "found no evidence of wrong-doing", it does not follow that everyone involved has a clean nose. The political in-fighting and general distrust which in one way or another seems to touch just about everyone in the story left a bad taste in my mouth. In an attempt to cleanse my poor, beleaguered soul, I decided to write about the whole sickening mess.

For some reason(s) - blame it on first issue chaos - the connection was missed, and the underside of the story went unpublished. But now, a week late,...reworked and updated,

here it is...

For the thousand or so people new to UNB (at least six of whom are probably reading this), a few introductory notes. John Bosnitch was SRC President for two years (82/84). A man of considerable talent and energy, to be sure. Also a man capable of alienating/abusing/offending people with apparent ease.

Bosnitch tried to make some changes to the way things happen on this campus. Interesting ideas, for the most part; but the way he went about implementing them was such that he polarized folks, either for or against him. Campus Services Ltd. was a prime example.

CSL was a good idea. A means of organizing pubs, concerts, and so on. Then CSL wanted a store; a sort of a mini 7-11. And so, against the orders of the Administration, a store was set up in one of the Student Union offices.

Again, a good idea. Except for the fact that the store lost money out the ass. Not just any money, our nickels and dimes. Now, I'm not a miser; considering the low prices CSL was charging (this was the reason they were losing

money), I can't complain. Why not subsidize the junk-food habits of students?

Actually, there is a bit of a reason why you don't do that: there are contractual obligations involved. Y'see, Beaver Foods has an agreement with the Administration to provide certain services at set prices. The prices, and the rebates to the University, are based on an expected volume. The Smoke Shop has a similar deal. Anyway, the CSL store was selling at cut-rate prices - this included selling cigarettes, imported from Nova Scotia, without the technicality of taxes - and cutting substantially into the established vendor's business. If not exactly illegal, certainly unfair.

Last year, a Board of Trustees took control of the SUB and tried to straighten out the mess that was CSL (incidentally, the store was not the only arm of CSL to lose money - cancelled concerts resulted in lost deposit money; some pretty unsuccessful pubs, as well).

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