Star wars discussed, condemned by researcher and legal expert

John Moseley

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

A 99 percent effective, space-based defense shield can certainly be built, given a static, unchanging offense to defend against, said John Moseley, University vice president for research.

Moseley made that statement at Harris Hall Wednesday night as part of a discussion on the Strategic Defense Initiative sponsored by the Willamette World Affairs Council.

Also speaking was Professor Peter Swan of the University Law school.

Moseley noted two problems with the space-based defense shield.

First, there is no such thing as an unchanging offense: the other side will begin to develop counter measures. Second, it will probably be more expensive to build the defense shield than to develop simple, effective counter measures, he said.

The "shiny missile" theory illustrates how cost might outweigh the benefit of a defense system, he said.

The theory holds that if one builds a laser to destroy missiles, the other side can make their missiles shiny, reflecting most of the laser's energy, and thereby effectively countering the defense system without much cost.

To overcome this countermeasure, however, the laser's power must be increased 100 times he said, and at a far greater cost.

As an example of how unreliable is computer technology, Moseley pointed to the U.S. bombing of Tripoli.

"Of the eight F-111s (fighter/bombers) on the bombing run to destroy Gadhafi's headquarters, the laser guiding systems on five failed," he said.

"These are far simpler systems than would be required for SDI. Those systems would have to work flawlessly tens of thousands of times in a matter of seconds or minutes."

Moseley cited a scientific survey done at Cornell University that asked scientists around the country if they thought a system such as SDI was feasible. He said 78 percent of respondents said the chance of successfully building SDI was "poor to very poor."

Swan discussed the legal implications of building SDI and whether it would be a violation of the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty.

"The treaty prohibits testing, development or deployment of systems based in sea, air, mobile land-based or space-based," Swan said.

The key to interpretation of the treaty is in the use of certain words, he said. One area of question is the word "development." he said. "It really doesn't even translate into Russian. They use a word more closely translating into create," he said.

He pointed out there also is some debate on where research stops and development begins and what exactly constitutes a laboratory. Some have said the Nevada test range is nothing more than an outdoor laboratory.

The State Department's new interpretation of the treaty holds the key wording is "currently consisting of," Swan said.

And because of this wording, the State Department says research on new "exotic" technologies that didn't exist "currently" when the treaty was written aren't covered by the treaty.

Nuke committee chosen

By Gary Henley
Of the Emerald

The Eugene City Council on Wednesday approved 13 temporary appointments to the Nuclear-Free Zone Task Force and accepted an amendment extending the timeline for final approval of board members to March 3.

The amendment will allow the temporary task force to study the effects and ways of implementing an ordinance voters passed November making Eugene a nuclear-free city.

Task force members will prepare a report on the ordinance, which will be reviewed by the city council.

The task force will include: Gerry Gaydos (chairman), representing the Eugene Planning Commission; Steve Johnson (vice chairman), representing the research community council members Cynthis Wooten and Rob Bennett; and Ronna Friend.

Also included are Joyce Swan, League of Women Voters; Jim Piercey, Metropolitan Partnership; Darst Atherly, chamber of commerce; David Zupan, Citizen Action for Lasting Security; Nancy Willard; Martha Evans; Robert Ellis, research; and Dean Baker, representing the education community.

The nuclear-free zone ordinance imposed a deadline of one month for city council appointment of a Nuclear-Free Zone Board, which would have certain duties and powers under the ordinance and would serve until November 1988, after which board members would be elected by the voters.

The deadline of one month was extended to give council members more time to look at several legal issues that came up after the ordinance was passed. Some of these include the pre-emption of federal and state powers and questions about the ordinance's wording.

The task force's duties are to review existing contracts, agreements and investments; to inform agencies of suspected violations; to assist in the conversion of nuclear weapons facilities to peaceful uses; and to develop a plan for funding its work.

On Feb. 11, the Committee on Committees reviewed the applications and agreed on a temporary list of people it nominated for Task Force membership. The interviews for board members took place on Feb. 18, and the list of nominees were finalized. All 13 nominees were approved for membership on the task force.

Two-year college counselors discuss transfer problem

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Academic counselors from Oregon's community colleges were on campus Wednesday to visit with University students who transferred from the two-year colleges.

The counselors were interested in how community college students fared in the process of transferring from the smaller, two-year colleges to the state's largest University.

The transfer process has accumulated a lore of its own, full of horror stories about seven years of college requirements and three terms of beginning economics, when courses taken at one college aren't accepted at the other.

The administrative hurdles faced by transfer students are likely to undergo closer scrutiny later this year when two bills in the Oregon Legislature are considered. Both measures call for a uniform set of lower-division transfer courses to be established at all two-year community college schools in Oregon.

The counselors were divided about the usefulness of a statewide, uniform transfer course agreement.

"You only hear about the problems," said Chuck Hower, an advisor from Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay. "If you have 40 students who transfer and two have problems, those are the two that you hear about."

Counselors from Linn-Benton Community College in Albany agreed the horror stories in the transfer process are not widespread. But the system, as it is, leaves plenty of room for confusion on the part of students and advisors.

"If the state sat down and made up a uniform numbering system, it'd make my job a whole lot easier," said Diane Watson, a counselor at LBCC.

With the current system, different four-year colleges have different lower division requirements. Western Oregon State College has creative arts requirements that students are expected to complete as freshmen and sophomores but other colleges don't, Watson said.

Some state, four-year colleges require health 250, others don't. Some four-year colleges require a full year of English composition, others require two quarters. The lower-division business and math requirements are different for community college students, depending on whether they want to transfer to Oregon State University or the University of Oregon, Watson said.

"A student may enter the community college as a freshman, decide that he's going to Oregon State, then change his mind halfway through and decide he wants to go to the U of O. Depending on the program, there can be very different (lower-division) requirements between the two schools," she said.

Watson said many students at LBCC take a suggested, general-education, lower-division schedule that will transfer very easily at OSU.

"What happens now — you find community colleges being carbons of whatever four-year school the majority of their students transfer to," said Ann Marie Etheridge, a counselor at LBCC. "I would be grateful if

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Et al.

MEETINGS

Public Relations Student Society of America meeting today at 4:30 in 301 A Allen.

Circle K Service Club meeting tonight at 6 in Room 16, EMU. Nominations for club officers will be discussed.

LECTURES

University Outdoor Program will give a presentation on the 1986 World Bicycle Racing Championships tonight at 7:30 in 177 Lawrence.

Student Campaign for Disarmament is sponsoring a slide show today on the Nicaraguan war zone. Contact the group for further information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council for Human Rights in Central America will show the United Farm Worker's video, "The Grapes of Wrath," on the current boycott of california table grapes between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 1236 Kincaid St.

Academic Advising and Student Services is sponsoring a workshop today at 3:30 in 164 Oregon Hall on "Letters of Recommendation . . . or 'How to sweep 'em Off Their Feet' "

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