

# “AHHHHH.....”

## Star Wars Raises Questions

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)—Some campuses may pull out of one of the largest university research bonanzas in American history if the Reagan administration's recent hints that it will stop professors from publishing their research results prove true, an official of a national administrators' groups warns.

In October, the government will begin pumping another \$600 million into university research labs that help it research new Star Wars weaponry.

The controversial project—formally called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)—would put lasers and other high-tech weapons into space to shoot down Soviet missiles in the event of an attack.

Petitions in which university researchers promise not to solicit or accept Star Wars research funds are being circulated at more than three dozen campuses this month.

The petitions protest the SDI on political grounds, and because the research contracts may restrict the publication of research funded by Star Wars grants.

Scientists seem most worried about the publication issue.

“The worst case scenario would be that dozens of universities would be forced to pass on Star Wars funding because the restrictions would violate their policies against conducting classified or secret research,”

says Jack Crowley, who monitors federal research funding for the American Association of Universities.

Initially, SDI officials insisted all university funding would be for fundamental research. Professors and graduate students thus would be free to publish the results of their work.

Then in August, SDI university research director Jim Ionson issued a memorandum reaffirming that position, yet adding research on operational capabilities and performance characteristics that is “unique and critical” to defense programs would be classified.

University officials say they are confused.

“It's not an entirely clear signal,” Crowley says. “We may have to play this out project-by-project.”

“You can't say it's horrible only because you're too confused to know for sure what they're planning to do,” says Massachusetts Institute of Technology research vice president Kenneth Smith.

Other SDI officials have said researchers couldn't talk about SDI research on the phone or in person unless a government official was present.

Schools also are worried about recent statements by SDI director Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, who said in July that all SDI research will be subject to “sensitivity checks.”

If SDI decides certain research is “just really amazingly impor-

tant” and that it was “absolutely critical the Russians don't get it,” it would be classified, Abrahamson told The Institute, the newsletter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

In other words, SDI could decide to classify all the research even after it promised to treat it as non-secret.

The restrictions, “would give rise to even more tension between universities over whether to conduct SDI research, and even more tension within any campus over whether individual professors should be doing SDI research,” Smith predicts.

Star Wars already has triggered the most vociferous debate over federal funding of university research since the Vietnam War.

At the time, most large research universities prohibited their faculty from conducting classified research, Smith says.

Secret research is best left to industry, university officials concluded, because academic freedom requires the results of scientific research be available to all.

The petitions now protesting administration efforts to force schools to violate the anti-secret research policies began at the University of Illinois.

“It's absolutely unprecedented for researchers to agree not to accept research funds like this,” says Illinois assistant physiology professor Eric Jakobsson, one of those who started the petition drive.

## OOPSIE DAISY!

Well with three issues out already, I guess you realize we're not perfect. Well I think the ideas beginning to dawn on us too. There are a few things we'd like to make up for and clear up.

1) Ms. Elizabeth Clark (sorry Andrew, ladies first) deserved to have her name on a rugby photo published in last week's Guilfordian. She is presently suing the establishment for all it's worth. Sorry Libby!

2) Mr. Andrew Stuart, who doesn't even do photos for teh Guilfordian, lowered himself and gave us an “awesome” football photo for which he was not given credit. When asked how he felt about this he stated, “I don't care about the credit, what about a stipend?”

3) Something's rotten with the volumes of the Guilfordian ... Actually I wouldn't have noticed if it hadn't ben brought to my attention, but the Number of our issues have been out of order so to speak. The last one was a printers mistake (it should have read II No I). Anyway we are not starting a new Volume since it hasn't changed since 1983 and are making this No. 4 because that's what it would have been if it had been correctly done in the first place.

## ‘C’ Average Required For Aid

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)—College students may have to maintain a “C” average in the future in order to get federal financial aid.

The grade requirement is just one change in the aid system Congress is now debating as it tries to pass the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1985.

The grade measure, proposed by senators Don Nickles (R-Ok) and Clairborne Pell (D-R.I.), has been proposed unsuccessfully before.

But chances for its passage may be good this time, sources say, because legislators are looking for relatively painless ways to cut the federal budget and because of recent publicity about bad students who get financial aid.

Currently, students only must be in good standing and make “satisfactory academic progress” toward a degree to receive federal aid.

“Unfortunately,” Nickles said during a hearing earlier this month, “there have been problems with this open-ended definition.

“Because of this open-minded opportunity for abuse, I believe we need to have a more specific standard.”

Nickles originally advanced his idea after a 1981 audit found nearly 20 percent of the students who got aid had less than a “C” average. Ten percent had a cumulative GPA under 1.5.

Congress also is debating a bill to let graduate students, who generally face higher education costs than undergrads, borrow more federally-guaranteed loan money and pay it back over a longer period of time.

The reauthorization process, which effectively sets federal higher education policies for the ensuing five years, usually triggers a slew of proposals that never become law.

But if federal loan programs are to be changed, the changes will first emerge during these congressional review sessions.

The grading bill would put aid recipients whose grades fall below 2.0 on probation for a term.

If the student doesn't improve by the end of the probation period, he or she will be denied federal aid.

The new break for graduate students who want a Guarantee Student Loan (GSL) program came up during a House subcommittee hearing.

Georgetown University law school dean John Kramer, speaking for a coalition of law school associations, said grad students needed the break.

“Over time, middle class students in particular are just not going to be able to afford a graduate education” Kramer warns.

Moreover, unless debt repayment policies are changed, many graduate students will feel obligated to take high-paying jobs after they get their degree, instead of going into teaching or community service work, Kramer predicts.

Kramer's plan would let graduate students borrow more than they currently can, and, if they borrow more than \$15,000, repay it over 10 to 20 years.

Extended repayment periods currently are made at the discretion of the lending agency.

Although Kramer's proposals were only for graduate students, he says they could be just as easily applied to all students.

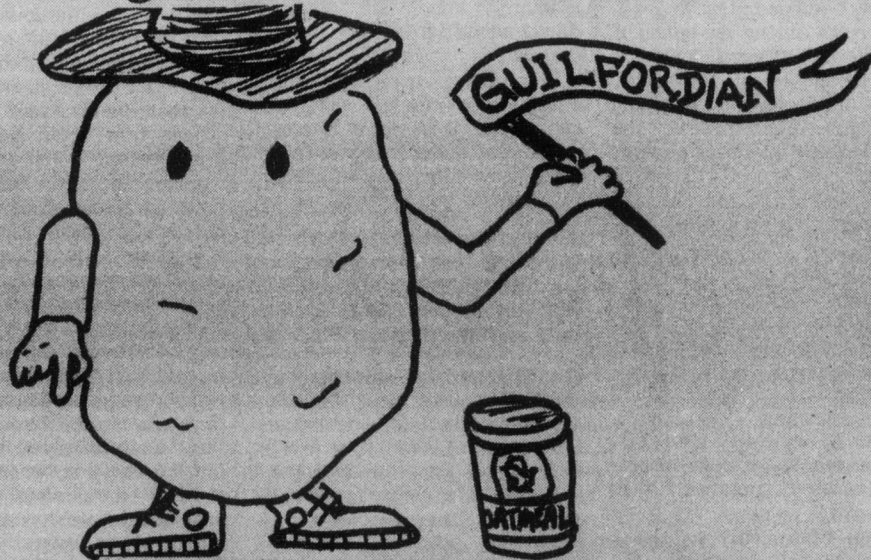
In fact, the American Council of Education, the most prominent higher education lobbying group, wants to increase loan limits to \$3,000 from \$2,500 for freshmen and sophomores, and to \$8,000 from \$5,000 for graduate students.

As yet, Reagan administration officials have not commented publicly on either the grade requirement or the grad student differential proposals.

Students would assume the cost, but Kramer thinks they ultimately should be making enough to keep the payments from being too much of a burden.

Current law allows the administration to adjust loan limits, but Kramer says recent law schools' requests for adjustments have been rejected.

**SPUD JR. WANTS YOU!**  
... To Join The Guilfordian



**JOIN US TONIGHT AT 7:30 p.m.**  
**In the Guilfordian Office**  
**2nd floor Founders**  
**Everyone Welcome!**