

Star Wars (SDI) is no defense at all

Editor's note: The following is a brief to the special joint committee on parliament's international relations submitted to The Herald for publication.

Dear Sir,
Our group has been active in the Ontario "small towns" of Georgetown and Acton for three years now. Our core members include housewives, retired veterans, teachers, and teenagers, and we are in regular touch with over 100 "peripheral supporters" who back us up with letter-writing, funding, and suggested actions for peace.

Our activities receive coverage in the local weekly newspapers on average every other week, and we often receive supportive comment from the public at large who read about us. Last summer, thousands of local residents signed The Peace Petition, a large majority of those we approached.

Most, but not all of our members have their beliefs about disarmament rooted in their faith, as members of various church denominations here in Halton Hills. We see the world from a "global" perspective. That is, we choose the vision of "one world", torn as it may presently be, over that of "we versus they". We are equally concerned about what the arms race is doing to the Two Thirds world, as for what it is doing or may do to our own country.

It is in this light, then, that we express our total rejection of the proposed Strategic Defence Initiative, and Canada's possible participation in it. We believe that this "SDI" will in fact be no defence at all, since it only purports to defend against ballistic missiles and therefore simply encourages the Soviets to build more non-ballistic weapons. And so the arms race spirals upward again.

SDI won't increase our security, it will be incredibly costly, and we do not want the few expensive jobs it will create - some of them quite possibly at a company in this town. We are happy to sacrifice any possible "technical spin-offs!" We prefer to save

'Like to see some changes'

Dear Sir,
I would like to add comment on all preceding letters filed with the Herald regarding Georgetown maternity ward policies.

I would very much like to see some changes come about in the maternity ward. Changes such as the following:

- sibling visits,
- no mandatory initial 24 hour observation of newborns,
- 24 hour rooming-in,
- no smoking in rooms.

However, I would also like to add that my first child was born at Georgetown and the quality of care we both received was nothing less than excellent. As much as I would like to see these policies implemented, I certainly would not want to take away from the present quality of our obstetrics department.

I feel that the two obstetricians we have on staff at Georgetown are sincerely working to help implement these changes. We must realize, though, that for whatever reasons, and perhaps some we do not fully understand these changes will take time, some longer than others. I feel all we can expect at this point is that these issues are being seriously considered and perhaps a flexibility of the present rules.

Dr. Valerie Kumar made a very important point in her letter to the Herald some weeks ago. A point which I feel we must not lose sight of. She stated "Let us not implement change as adversaries but in a spirit of mutual trust and respect so that our local hospital might best serve the needs of us all."

Yours sincerely,
Kimberley Colangelo,
84 Raylawn Cr.,
Georgetown

our integrity and our souls!

Of further great concern to us is what the arms race is doing to the Two Thirds World. The millions of dollars and the many talented minds which will be devoted to "Star Wars" research cannot then be directed towards aid and development projects which might possibly just eliminate the causes of much international tension! And millions around the world suffer oppression under their own governments, armed with weapons made by the superpowers, sometimes with Canadian parts. We believe Canadians want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem, as they have already demonstrated by their overwhelming response to the African drought.

We appreciate the directive to Mr. Arthur Kroeger to study the strategic, scientific, and economic implications of SDI. However we wish to emphasize that such study must not ignore the moral implications as well. Each minute, the world spends over one million dollars on weapons, and each minute 30 children die of malnutrition. 1983 military expenditures by developed countries were 17 times larger than their extensions of aid to countries in need (Sivard, World Military and Social Expenditures), and SDI will not improve this ratio. Our own children grow up with fear and hopelessness, because of weapons that are supposed to make

them feel more secure. Even they ask "Don't we have enough?"

Canada is a peace-loving, peace-making country. We do not wish to develop, manufacture, test, or export weapons which decrease the security of Canadians and of others around the world. Our security no longer lies in technological dreams, but in honest brokering, political will, and the courage to say "This is madness. The world has enough nuclear weapons." Several western nations have already rejected participation in SDI. Canada should stand with them.

Janet Duval
Cheryl Lightowers
For the members of "HAND"



Constable Dave Short received encore after encore for the playing of the police car siren. Members of the audience were from the Halton Hills Recreation Department Tot Lot. Seen here are (left to right) Constable Dave Short, Jason Pacheco, Mariena Santos, Steven Carreiro and Jason McKinley. (Herald photo)

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The Acton Chamber of Commerce's mailbag will be heavier next month. Their Georgetown counterparts decided to send them copies of their minutes. Georgetown Chamber of Commerce president Dave Kentner said Thursday it would be helpful to their Acton Chamber neighbors to know what initiatives and programs they are planning.

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Four flags with a total value of \$400 were taken Thursday from Smith Bill Auto Parts Ltd. at 334 Guelph St. in Georgetown.

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