

Martin Shooting (Cont'd from page six)

He also recommended police pursue a case against Zimmerman for manslaughter. An arrest warrant and all charges against Zimmerman were turned down by the state attorney's office, citing that they did not have enough evidence.

Another variable in this case is video surveillance footage of Zimmerman at the Sanford police station that night approximately an hour after the incident. Zimmerman claims, as do the police reports, that he was beaten and bloodied in the nose and back of the head, but in this footage appears to be a very clean and uninjured looking man. He did receive some medical attention and was cleaned up at the scene, but there are no clear signs of swelling, injury, or blood on his clothing.

Richard Kurtz, the funeral home director who prepared Martin's body, said that it was his professional opinion that Martin could not have been involved in a very violent altercation. According to Kurtz, his fists showed no signs of punching, and his

body showed no signs of struggle. He stated that while there was clearly an entrance wound, he could not make out an exit wound. If Trayvon Martin was shot at such close range, it is likely the bullet would have gone the entire way through his body.

Another cause for concern are the cries for help heard on the 911 calls from that night. Zimmerman claims the calls from help were from him, as do at least one eyewitness and the police reports. However, Martin's mother claims she recognizes the voice yelling for help as that of her son. Tom Owen, a forensic expert contacted by the Orlando Sentinel to analyze these tapes, claims using voice identifying technology that he "can say with reasonable scientific certainty that it's not Zimmerman."

After public outcry and a long series of protests across the country demanding the arrest of George Zimmerman, the Department of Justice is now involved in the case, reinvestigating the incident.

Fire The Lasers!

United States Plans to Create Man-Made Star

MICHAEL PERSCH

Star Wars, Star Trek, and even Austin Powers all play with the idea of lasers - machines that can shoot beams of light that can destroy anything with extreme precision. This idea has seemed to develop in the wake of World War II with the dawn of the Nuclear Age, but prospects of lasers have grown far beyond weapons, and in one instance, are even working right along the work of the nuclear field.

On March 15, 2012 the United States, in the latest steps of a fifty year plus project, fired its newest laser beam in California. The laser broke all current records as it reached its peak of a 2.03 megajoule shot. One megajoule is equal to 1 million joules, which is a unit of measurement used to measure energy. For comparison, the standard example of a single joule is the energy required to lift an average sized apple one meter straight up against the force

of gravity.

The shot was recorded at the United States' Nation Ignition Facility (NIF) at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab. However, the goal of this facility is not to develop a weapon. The final goal of this project is to create small star.

The idea began roughly fifty years ago, after the United States created an arsenal of weapons working of the principles of nuclear fission (breaking atoms apart). We then slowly implemented this idea into our current nuclear energy programs. This method however offers huge risks such as meltdowns, radiation leaks, and large amounts of nuclear waste - examples include the Three Mile Island meltdown and last year's nuclear disaster in Japan.

NIF is working on the opposite end of this idea; they hope to use nuclear fusion (bonding atoms) as a form of creating energy, much like the sun does. The facility will use small

amounts of deuterium and tritium in a fuel capsule. They must also replicate the conditions of this reaction by generating temperatures in the tens of millions of degrees, and pressures billions of times greater than those from Earth's atmosphere.

While this process may sound huge and bombastic, the entire facility itself is actually what the lasers are built into. The target chamber is only about 30 feet in diameter, and the fuel cell being shot is the size of a pea. Finally, after decades of work and dozens of trials, all that the laser needs to do with fire for only ten billionths of a second.

The hopes of this experiment would be to successfully create a man-made star in a controlled environment which we could study. The process is expected to use the energy of "500 million million 100 watt light bulbs", according to NIF website. They believe the end result could potentially release enough energy to help break the United States' dependency on foreign oil.

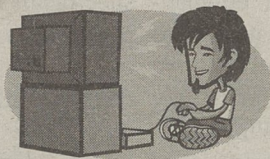
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A Letter From the Editor-In-Chief:

Much like the pervious issue, my Co-Editor John Shaffer was featured in two articles: the SGA election and debate articles. In the interest of journalistic integrity and objectivity, Mr. Shaffer had no editorial control over either article he was featured in.

-Michael Garrett

Please send any comments, concerns, or letters to: Mmg5241@psu.edu

The Fourth Wall

The Fourth Wall is the monthly student newspaper for the Mont Alto campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Letters to the Editor, comments, and queries may be addressed to Mmg5241@psu.edu. Mail can be sent to The Fourth Wall, Campus Life Office, 1 Campus Dr., Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto, Mont Alto PA 17237.

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