

PSU Star Wars research argued

By STEVE SNYDER
Collegian Science Writer

Petitions to boycott the proposed "Star Wars" defense system are circulating on at least 37 campuses throughout the nation but researchers at the Penn State have not yet acted.

Rustum Roy, director of the University's Materials Research Laboratory, said, "I have not initiated anything yet," adding, "Other campuses have done a lot."

L.R. Hetteche, director of the University's Applied Research Lab, said he would not back such a petition.

Charles L. Hosler, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School, agreed.

"I believe in academic freedom," he said. Researchers should be free to choose what they want to work on, he added.

Hetteche said that there was an "overwhelming response" of Strategic Defense Initiative program — nicknamed Star Wars — proposals from

the University, including at least one from the Materials Research Lab. Roy tried to explain the reason for such diverse opinions concerning SDI research.

There are three types of defense research, he said. The first type is "faculty-initiated research," which means that the faculties are allocated funds and they choose what research to do. This research is completely open to the public, he said.

The Materials Research Laboratory does not do any classified research, unlike the Applied Research Lab. Universities are institutions of learning and their information should be open and shared, Roy said.

"Weapons research" is strictly classified and deals with "instruments of death," Roy said.

"Defense Department-initiated research" is the final type and is a mixture of the other two, Roy said.

SDI is a combination of Defense Department-initiated research and weapons research, he said.

Because many faculty members

are unwilling to do classified research, they will not involve themselves in much of the SDI projects and research, Roy said. Others think "Star Wars research is a dumb idea and won't do anything with that label," he added.

Roy said petitions circulating at other universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cornell and Carnegie-Mellon universities, are in response to press releases issued by the U.S. Department of Defense that "purposely insinuated" these universities support Star Wars.

"Most of the academic world doesn't support Star Wars," Roy said. The universities that the Defense Department claims support SDI are outraged and want to disassociate themselves from the program, he said.

Hetteche disagreed. The petitioners have a "parochial interest rather than a moral interest" in the issue, he said. Hosler said both publicity and financial support are major factors in the minds of petitioners.

Roy said that SDI "is very bad for defense." Star Wars "steals money from well thought-out programs and puts it into half-baked ideas," he said.

Star Wars-like ideas have been considered by researchers for 30 years, but because they are so impractical they have never been initiated, Roy said. SDI "represents a political interference into good defense research," he said. It is a political gimmick that will end in 1986 after the Democrats retake the U.S. Senate, Roy said.

Hetteche agreed that SDI has been discussed in a "political forum." The public has been confused by the rhetoric that has gone on, he added.

If a petition were circulated and signed, it is unknown how much money in federal research grants the University would lose.

Hosler said the University would not lose much money directly, but might lose a lot indirectly. Much "basic research is funded by this budget item," he said. "SDI hasn't focused on any 1 item."

Democrats cease efforts to pass tougher sanctions

Anti-filibuster vote falls short in Senate

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senate Democrats, unable to crack a Republican filibuster, temporarily abandoned efforts yesterday to pass legislation calling for tougher sanctions against white-ruled South Africa than President Reagan has imposed.

But Democrats, angrily accusing Republicans of parliamentary "tricking," vowed to try again on the politically volatile issue later in the year.

"We intend to keep this issue alive," Sen. Alan Cranston, R-Calif., said before the Senate voted overwhelmingly against a move to break the filibuster. The roll call — 11 votes in favor of limiting debate and 88 opposed — became meaningless when Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., urged other Democrats to vote against their own anti-filibuster bid.

His request amounted to a concession of failure, Democratic aides said, because he knew in advance the attempt was likely to pull fewer than the 57 votes a similar bid gained Wednesday.

But Democratic tempers flared in the well of the Senate immediately after the vote, when Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, removed the legislation from the Senate desk. The action, in effect, prevented Democrats from seeking any more anti-filibuster votes.

Kennedy labeled Lugar's action a "tactic which is beneath the dignity of the Senate," and "tricking" behavior. "This is an extraordinary action. Those who resort to that action believe they can't win on the merits," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., replied that there was precedent for Lugar's action, but when pressed to cite earlier examples, he replied, "We're still researching that."

Dole and Lugar both have pledged to resurrect the legislation if Reagan fails to pursue the sanctions he announced earlier in the

week against the South African government.

The anti-filibuster vote was the latest chapter in a drama that began as a confrontation between Congress and the White House on foreign policy and has since transformed into a noisy political struggle between Republicans and Democrats.

The nature of the dispute changed Monday when Reagan, under pressure from Congress, imposed many of the legislation's sanctions in a bid to force Pretoria to loosen the apartheid laws that discriminate against black South Africans.

Reagan's order restricts the sales of computer equipment and nuclear technology to South Africa, as well as barring most new bank loans to the government. Reagan also announced he would seek permission under an international trade agreement to ban the importation of South African gold coins, the Krugerrand, into this country.

But Reagan's order did not include one key provision in the bill — a requirement for additional sanctions in a year if South Africa has not made significant progress toward dismantling apartheid. In addition, the president said he would veto the legislation if it reached his desk.

Republican leaders, welcoming Reagan's decision, said it made enactment of the legislation unnecessary but pledged to resurrect the measure if the administration wavered in enforcing its own sanctions.

However, Democrats said the president did not go far enough, and vowed to press for a final vote.

'We intend to keep this issue alive.'

—Sen. Alan Cranston, R-Calif.

Their first attempt failed on Monday, 53-34, seven votes shy of the 60 needed to limit a filibuster. The second vote, on Wednesday, was 57-41, in what Republicans said was an attempt to embarrass the president for political purposes.

Sen. Robert Stafford, R-Vt., who voted against the filibuster on Monday, but switched sides on Wednesday, said he did so because the Democrats were playing "political games."



Collegian Photo / Gregg Zalkin

Watch out

Attention all triskaldekaphobics: do you know what today is? Keep an eye out for black cats, ladders and maniacal youngsters because it's Friday the 13th. The superstition comes to us from European folklore about the crucifixion.

13th. The superstition comes to us from European folklore about the crucifixion.

Friday

fyi

• The University's Board of Trustees will meet on campus today beginning 9 a.m. at the Faculty Building. Topics to be discussed include the status of women at the University and intercollegiate athletics. The Trustees will not discuss University investments in companies doing business in South Africa. The meeting is open to the public.

• The Registrar's Office will replace certificates of registration free to students who misplaced their bursar's receipts. Certificates indicate if a student is full- or part-time and graduate or undergraduate.

Students need the certificates to cash checks at businesses and to enter football games after this weekend. Duplicates will be issued from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays in 112 Shields. Students need their ID cards to pick up certificates.

• The Centre Area Transportation Authority's W Park Forest, ES Park Forest and Sunday shuttle buses must detour routes due to Aaron Drive construction. The Park Lane and Upper Aaron Drive stops will 4403303be moved to the corner of Sierra and Park Lane. The Lower Aaron Drive stop will be moved to the parking lot beside the Prescription Shoppe, 1606 N. Atherton St. Construction should be completed by Sept. 27.

weather

Today, sunshine giving way to periods of sun and clouds. It will be breezy and cool. Watch for scattered black cats. High 63. This evening, mostly clear, calm and quite chilly. Low near 35. Heidi Sonen

South Africa may end pass laws

By TOM BALDWIN
Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A government panel yesterday proposed repeal of the hated "pass laws" that keep South Africa's Blacks out of white areas — the second major change in the apartheid system announced in two days.

Even Whites who oppose the government hailed the step.

"This is the beginning of the end of apartheid," said Sheena Duncan, president of the Black Sash women's movement, which opposes the nation's system of racial segregation. "I really do think it means something. They are not playing around with words this time."

Helen Suzman, an anti-apartheid member of Parliament, said, "This is probably the most important step forward in 30 years."

A primary effect will be that families now restricted to their tribal homelands could join the men working in the cities, preventing the breakup of families.

On Wednesday, President P.W. Botha told a congress of his National Party that the government was giving up its policy that Blacks eventually have to become citizens of Black homelands and relinquish citizenship in South Africa.

Blacks, however, still will have political rights only in the homeland, and still will not be able to vote in South Africa.

Police reported rioting near Cape Town, where they said they shot and killed three black men, and in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, where a 50-year-old white school teacher and 10 black students suffered gunshot wounds after police fired on "unruly" students.

Residents of Soweto's White City Jabavu neighborhood said police arrested as many as 600 students around Hlangeni High School, holding an undetermined number of them in Diepkloof Prison under state-of-emergency regulations.

The residents said students under age 12 were freed. The neighborhood has seen the worst of Soweto rioting since anti-apartheid violence began more than a year ago. Hlangeni has been a meeting place for students who boycott classes each day, then form mobs that often clash with police.

Government policy allows the country's 5 million Whites to settle almost anywhere while its 24 million Blacks need permits, or passes, to live near white areas and hold jobs there.

Between 200,000 and 300,000 Blacks a year are arrested for violations of the pass laws and sent

back to the tribal homelands, usually for trying to work in cities illegally.

A committee of the President's Council, an advisory panel to President P.W. Botha, on Thursday announced a report that said pass laws — technically called "influx control" — do not work and cost too much to maintain.

It also said the laws are "discriminatory" against Blacks and "conflict with basic human rights."

The plan calls for replacing pass laws with what the council said would be "orderly urbanization." Details were sketchy, but the report said more money should be spent developing black townships and allowances should be made for "informal" communities — black squatter camps.

The pass itself would be replaced by a common identity document to be carried by people of all races.

The President's Council committee said it favors a phased abolition of influx control, rather than immediate wholesale repeal.

To take effect, the committee's pass law proposals must be approved by the full council, which is assured, and then Parliament.

There is little doubt Botha, whose party controls Parliament, will accept the committee's suggestion, since he appoints the council members.