LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE THREAT OF WEAPONS IN SPACE

I just read the cover stories in the latest Radiations. I’m appalled at the naivety displayed in these articles. I’ve been a member of Sigma Pi Sigma since my undergraduate days at William Jewell College (1967). I’ve worked in the defense industry my entire career and spent over 20 years working on the Space Based Laser, before that the Peacekeeper missile as well as most Navy surface missile systems. What we should fear is a nuclear holocaust or other weapons of mass destruction (chemical and biological weapons).

The sad news, we already have weapons in space and have had for decades. They’re called ICBMs. Any long range missile comes from space. I am very proud of the work I did on Space Based Laser and it is very unfortunate that politics (expressions similar to yours) shut the program down. I am currently consulting the services on developing laser systems that will be deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. These weapons will save soldiers lives by destroying IEDs before they have a chance to detonate. It’s incredibly irresponsible of you to publish such biased articles with no technical credibility. Instead of a Space Based Laser swooping down on innocent children, your cover photo should show the weapon destroying an enemy missile in the boost phase, thus saving those precious children. Stick to publishing technical articles and leave the politics to others!!!!!

-- David N. Loomis
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<th>EMBROIDERY LOGO CHOICE</th>
<th>GOLDF OR WHITE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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Fall ‘06 RADIATIONS

The Fall 06 Radiations is outstanding. I can’t wait to get the electronic version for my library.

-- John Dooley
Physics Dept., Millersville University