

Reject MX missiles

I suggest that Mr. Clark, who apparently supports the development of the MX missile system (Emerald, Dec. 6th), read the lead article in the November Scientific American which refutes, in purely military terms, the argument that the U.S. should proceed with the development of this means of defense. The development in the past decade of multiple warhead missiles, thought at the time to provide increased security for the U.S., is shown in this article to have been shortsighted and militarily counter-productive, and the same is demonstrated to be true for the MX.

Of course, there are other valid objections to this system. Environmentally, it appears that the Defense Department still adheres to the Vietnam-era philosophy that one is justified in destroying a village in order to save it, now applied to the U.S. itself. The adverse impact on the southwestern states, where the MX is to be built, would be enormous, though doubtless it would generate some short-term employment and make some contractors very rich.

This issue is one that has receded from the front pages, replaced by the more dramatic (but in the long term less important) events in Iran. I urge everyone to study this question carefully and to urge rejection by the Congress of the MX missile system.

Robert Jordan
graduate, biology

Red tape eroding?

In response to Greg's recent "Tabled Indefinitely," lamenting the apparent apathy and vacuity of the student of the late 1970's (compared to the 1960's), I have heretofore only too readily agreed. Recent events, however, have made me wonder where subtle changes in both public and student sensibilities have more than made up for the relative lack of gut-level concern we felt when we waged war in Indo-China.

The overwhelming majority of the University community, for example, protests the selective enforcement and harassment against the Iranian students in the U.S., as scapegoats for our frustration. The spark of an idea to donate \$1 per student for Cambodian starvation relief brings a flood of calls, volunteers and pledges.

The journalistic excess of the post-Watergate, "investigative reporting" binge which your L. Sigurdson fell prey to was met with an indignant storm of resentment from the administrators (and their supportive employees and colleagues) who were working or gainfully occupied after all. (We also learned from

this that a retraction or rebuttal of a mistaken slander does not fully heal a wound.)

My own recent confrontation with the University bureaucracy makes me wonder further if, by golly, we aren't entering another "era of good feeling." Speaking as a former government employee and now as a GTF coordinating the Model United Nations program, I had thought my red-tape-cutting powers to be awesome, even to the point of relishing another skirmish and victory, in planning a major conference for some 200-plus high school students which was held here Oct. 24th. Unfortunately, the "Bully for Billy" cadre had won the hearts and minds of all bureaucrats I had encountered, and I met cooperation and consideration from all, even with some last minute changes and unusual (non-standard) requests.

Contrary to Mr. Sigurdson's picture of an empty Oregon Hall on Friday afternoons, I was able to enlist the aid of Ms. Nancy Wittenborn (of the Student Affairs Office) to help Xerox and mail documents until a few minutes after 5:00 p.m. The day before our conference, Noreen Mason of the Public Services Office came through on an unorthodox request to borrow the University's collection of international flags, whereupon the Physical Plant's Chet Kirkland (and crew) executed an unprecedented display-plan for these flags, even with a late, incomplete work-order, i.e., on faith. The Print Shop's Wayne Merritt went overtime to give us a rush order on time. Campus Security, also stricken with this contagion, responded on short notice to accommodate the parking of our many out-of-town participants.

Very frustrating. I'm going to tell Leo Durocher about this. ("Nice guys finish last." — L.D.)

Thomas C. Hall
GTF, political science

Religious excesses

I am sick to death of innocent human suffering throughout the world. We are supposed to be living in the latter part of the 'civilized' twentieth century when, in fact, it appears the international scope of things has regressed into medieval times. The plight of Somalian refugees in the Ogaden is surpassing that of even the Cambodians. History is repetitiously trying to prove that life is cheap — a totally unnecessary excuse to continue past wrongs.

I am especially sick to death of rising body counts in the name of God. Killing in the name of God has continued in Lebanon, between Christian and Moslems; in Northern Ireland between Roman Catholics and Protestants; and most recently the Ayatollah is proclaim-

ing his right to kill under the guise of religious, Godly justice. I am afraid this divine 'right' is but a delusion hidden under a dark cloak of vengeance. If this hating, wrathful God exists then we're in worse trouble than we think. Everyone is so concerned about the Shah and his evil deeds, but where is the concern, in the other direction, for the hostages and more especially, where is the concern for innocent Iranian and American children who will ultimately be forced to pay the price for the actions of a much older generation.

Lorna Carter
senior, sociology

Bicycling weather

In response to your article Thursday, Dec. 6th, entitled 'Bikers request ranking of transportation goals...'

Being the owner of both a car and a bicycle, I have never been confronted with any serious difficulties in riding my bicycle to and around campus, where using a car for transportation has proved to be virtually an impossibility. Granted the traffic between University Street and Kincaid is a problem; but are the bicycling habits of Professor Hosticka and his committee so inconsiderate that they can not slow down or stop for pedestrians who occasionally obstruct their way?

Please do not misunderstand me, I am all for the improvement of campus bicycle facilities, but the committee must realize that a goodly portion of the student body has no option but to drive because of their distance from campus. And as it now stands, trying to find a parking space after 8 a.m. is one big hassle.

Furthermore, students like myself who own cars but live within reasonable riding distance, have been left little option but to ride their bikes. Being from Maine, I am not all bothered by riding in harsh weather, but those students who are, should not be denied the option of driving under such conditions.

Christian Gunther
freshman, undeclared

Cambodian relief

This is the last Christmas of the decade. It may also be the last Christmas seen by 3.5 million Cambodians.

More than two million inhabitants of Cambodia have perished since 1975. War, disease, and now famine have threatened the entire nation of Cambodia with extinction. While we are unable to alter what has occurred in the past, we are able to influence the future.

Through the efforts of many non-partisan international relief agencies (led by

OXFAM), food and seed is now being distributed in Cambodia. But still, the future of this tragic people is doubtful. Much remains to be done.

Despite the nearness of finals, University students have been working the past two weeks to raise money for Cambodia. Thus far, students have contributed more than \$3,000. They will hopefully continue to contribute.

The Cambodia Fund received its first donation from Pres. Boyd. We hope that his concern is shared by you.

We therefore ask you, on behalf of the people of Cambodia who are unable to appeal to you themselves, to follow the lead of the students, and to give a little of your compassion and money to the University Cambodia Relief Fund. Checks, payable to either the OXFAM Cambodia Fund or UNICEF Cambodia Fund may be sent in care of me at 823 PLC or Suite 4, EMU.

Michael Lacey
chairman, University Cambodia Relief Fund

Bassett responds

I feel compelled to respond to accusations made by Joyce Reynolds in a letter to the editor Dec. 7. Her letter addressed the discussion between the ASUO and a former employee requesting payment in addition to the amount specified in his contract.

The payment issue is a legal matter which is being thoroughly reviewed by the legal staff of the Office of Student Advocacy.

I am awaiting the lawyer's final evaluation so that unsubstantiated claims can be refuted and so that the truth will be known.

In the meantime I hope that students will disregard the inaccurate and misleading statements made by Miss Reynolds, and will maintain a clear perspective on this issue.

Scott Bassett
ASUO president

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters must be signed and the author's field of study or faculty status noted.

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