

opinion

All signs indicate war looming ahead

A recently published Associated Press-NBC News poll says that two out of three Americans believe it is likely the United States will become involved in a war within the next few years.

That may be alarming, though the actions of the United States government in the last year indicate an extraordinary bolstering of this country's military posture.

The nationwide telephone survey (consisting of 1,601 adults) said 68 percent believe it either highly likely or

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somewhat likely the United States will go to war. This same question posed in August received a 57 percent response. In February, 59 percent thought United States involvement in war is likely.

The fluctuation and nine percent rise in those thinking war imminent is not unusual when looking at the recent direction of Pres. Ronald Reagan's administration.

Friday Reagan outlined a \$180.3 billion defense program that includes 100 MX missiles and production of the previously defunct B-1 bomber.

The arms race has begun anew.

This extravagant military hardware package was announced on the heels of devastating budget cuts to important social programs.

What is any American to infer from this?

The obvious impetus of Reagan's administration is to build-up the United States militarily while weaning the country of what the Reaganites consider "liberal" inspired social programs.

Not only this military build-up, the Reagan administration's hard-line uncompromising stance in the face of the Soviet bear indicates an other-than-flexible diplomatic policy. That we may end up in a confrontation with the Soviets over some Third World desert tract is conceivable with a diplomatic policy that refuses to bend.

The reinstatement of the draft seems around the corner. Draft registration — begun more than a year ago — has been stepped up, and those who haven't registered have been warned they are in violation of the law and face imprisonment. There have been reports that a doctor draft is in the works. Medical personnel are the first to be drafted in an emergency.

The armed forces themselves have expanded their advertising campaign on radio, television, magazines and newspapers. The armed forces have been vigorously adopting incentives and making promises to recruit. The presence of a recruiter is now commonplace in high schools.

For some months there has been a media campaign waged by the Pentagon and the Reagan administration aimed at convincing the American people that the Soviets are militarily superior to the United States.

Whether this is true or not won't matter when the fire storm burns everything within 200 miles of the epicenter.

If one weighs the data — military hardware build-up, cut in domestic social programs, hawkish diplomatic stance, reinstatement of the draft, manpower build-up in the armed forces, media campaign propagandizing Soviet superiority — those 68 percent who thought war imminent in the next few years are definitely pre-cognitive.

The Emerald is not pre-cognitive. We can only pray the Reagan administration treads lightly and always seeks solutions alternative to war. If global war starts it won't matter who the guilty nation is. Global war spells the end of humankind.

letters policy

Write us

The Emerald will accept and attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on issues, ideas and topics of interest to the University community.

The letters must be limited to 250 words, signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. Publication of letters is dependent upon the space available.

theirs



yours

Ban ROTC

Now while everyone is thinking about curtailing, eliminating or banishing from the campus various excellent university programs, perhaps we should consider again eliminating a small, parasitic, non-university, non-academic program — the ROTC.

The differences are clear. The programs being considered for elimination are integral parts of the academic program, which some faculty and students, at least, find to be very valuable and to which no faculty or students have objected.

The ROTC is staffed and run by an outside, non-university, non-academic agency and has generated sustained opposition from numerous faculty, students and others on a wide variety of grounds.

Our programs (biology) are being curtailed because of outside economic and political pressures, in the face of widespread internal support.

ROTC is retained because of real or imaginary outside economic and political pressures in the face of much internal opposition.

Let's at least be ourselves so far as possible. If we must curtail, ROTC should certainly be the first thing to go.

Bayard H. McConaughy
Biology

Support union

I support retention of the fair share provision of the recently bargained contract for classified employees. There is a petition circulating on campus to rescind this provision. Loss of fair share would hurt all state employees, whether or not they are union members.

The Oregon Public Employees Union fought hard for, and won, an excellent contract for state employees this year. Their efforts prevented the state from implementing several proposed takebacks, and gained \$18 million beyond what the Governor offered in his budget. Without this \$18 million, employees would be paying a greater share of insurance premiums and there would have been no \$55 raises for anyone. The people who benefited most, proportionately, from that raise

are the lower paid clerical workers, who are under-represented in the union.

Fair share is not a new or unusual concept. Many unions utilize it (ONA, OEA, AFSCME); many Oregon state agencies have had it for several years (Education, AFS, DMV). An independent factfinder recommended it be included in our contract, emphasizing that all employees benefit from Union negotiations and administration of the contract; all should pay their "fair share" to cover the cost.

In these days of economic recession, we need our union to insure that our working people are provided with sufficient wages and benefits, and decent working conditions. Fighting for these benefits is expensive. The increased revenue gained from fair share will help all of us obtain an even better contract two years from now. Support your union; keep fair share.

Kathy Black
Secretary, Local 085, OPEU

Clean air

Your reporter gave an excellent coverage on page seven of Monday's Emerald to the Clean Air-OSHA Symposium on Saturday.

I would like to correct one error. I did not say that one-third of the staff of the Environmental Protection Agency had already been fired. I said one-third (over 3,000 employees) would be fired if current administration plans are carried out. Similar figures, referring to a proposal to slash the EPA dollar budget by as much as 60 percent, were reported by The Emerald on page five of Monday's edition.

In addition, the sponsors of the symposium included one that was worthy of particular mention, namely the International Woodworkers of America. The IWA is a major labor union in the lumber mills of Oregon and the Northwest.

The emerging coalition of labor and environmental groups in areas of common interest is a notable development worth exploring and reporting. The symposium was the first of a series of activities of such a coalition in Oregon that will focus on protecting both the Clean Air Act and the Occupational Safety

and Health Act (OSHA), which protects American workers on the job.

John E. Bonine
Associate Professor of Law

Anti-abortion

Contrary to rhetoric of the pro-abortion movement abortion does cause psychological harm to many women who undergo it. Too bad "pro-choicers" are so busy pushing their cause that they ignore the disadvantages of abortion.

Four thousand five hundred women who all had abortions, and now wish they hadn't, banded together to form "Women Exploited" — an organization dedicated to presenting the truth concerning the harmful psychological and physiological effects abortion has on women. They hope others won't make the same mistake they made. In an article "The Psychological Damages of Abortion," by Stephanie Overman, W.E. co-founder Denise Thomas states, "We founded the group because we were all feeling guilty. All of us had problems and felt what we had done was wrong." She added, "We try to tell them (women) about the long-range problems."

Their organization feels abortion is an injustice heaped upon many women by insincere boyfriends and husbands trying to avoid responsibility associated with relationships, greedy abortion doctors, and pro-abortion activists (male and female) who care nothing for the individual woman or child. These interests intentionally hide the disadvantages and alternatives — including adoption from the woman. For instance, Thomas states, "People at the clinic will tell the woman anything to get her to feel at ease and to get her into the procedure room" and "The first place a woman goes at the clinic is the cashier's office. After the abortion they don't want to see her again."

Abortion hurts many women and individuals saying otherwise either (1) haven't done their homework or (2) prefer the facts remain undisclosed.

Lori Parkman
Springfield, OR