

Europeans rally while Americans look on

The marches and nuclear disarmament demonstrations in Europe are not being fully comprehended by the American people nor the Reagan administration. They are in reality signs of a deep concern for peace and nuclear disarmament not unlike the protests that wracked the United States in the late 1960s.

The mass demonstrations in Europe have been gathering momentum for three weeks. More than a quarter of a million people turned out Saturday in what has been called the largest peace-time rally ever held in Britain. What were they chanting? Oddly enough, they chanted "Yankee Go Home" and "Reagan Is A Hangman."

In Rome, 200,000 marched for peace and nuclear disarmament. Two weeks ago more than 200,000 gathered in Bonn, West Germany, to loudly call for nuclear disarmament. Fifty thousand Parisians, wearing gas masks and skeleton costumes, marched in protest through the streets of Paris last week. Nearly 10,000 thousand Norwegians conducted a torchlight parade in support of disarmament. But most startling was the rally in Communist-ruled East Germany in which 50,000 people demonstrated for nuclear disarmament.

Even Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu called for withdrawal of Soviet SS-20 missiles from eastern European sites in exchange for a halt to the deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing II missiles in western Europe.

The U.S. has long been accustomed to European anti-nuclear arms demonstrations since the "Ban the bomb" movement of the 1950s. It's taken as a matter of course that any NATO build-up will be met with European histrionics wanting the massive nuclear weaponry out-of-their-faces, so to speak.

Yet, the magnitude and strength of the recent European demonstrations belie a more strident, not-to-be-ignored temper.

The Europeans' anti-nuclear arms mood has been compounded by the Reagan administration's many faux pas regarding nuclear weapons deployment in Europe.

Gen. Robert L. Schweitzer irrevocably blundered when he said the "Soviets are on the move; they are going to strike." Such a decidedly belligerent statement is not the most reassuring for the European Community.

Being on this side — the safe side — of the Atlantic, the American people don't quite understand the Europeans' frightened attitude. But they are in a virtual vise, being squeezed by the sheer proximity of the Soviet Union; and by the stop-gap occupation of U.S. supported NATO arms and troops. That vise gets tighter and tighter.

The history of Europe in this century has been one of almost perpetual warfare. Indeed, the odd lapses of peace are traceable to the ravages wrought by war. Europeans, unlike Americans, have lived beneath the black clouds of war for longer than just the twentieth century. They know that smell in the wind and the look of the horizon when the storm of death is onrushing.

The Europeans have also had to contend with the proposed deployment of the neutron bomb in NATO countries — which also ignited mass demonstrations.

Pres. Ronald Reagan has done little to encourage calmness in Europe. He has in fact augmented fear recently by stupidly commenting he could envision the exchange of tactical nuclear weapons on a European battlefield "without it bringing either one of the major powers to pushing the button."

That's a very "reassuring" statement for the European Community from the otherside of the Atlantic. Not only is that statement reckless, it could be called criminal.

Reagan's vision is foggy. The concept that the superpowers wouldn't be there — behind the

buttons — in a limited nuclear war in Europe, is idiotic. Who else has the buttons?

There are longstanding tensions between western Europe and eastern Europe, but those tensions aren't even remotely near the point where they might start hurling nuclear weapons at each other. It's possible the European Community is now conducting trade and travel at a more harmonious level than at any other time in this century.

The disarmament demonstrators in Europe are marching in the hope they can avert the confrontation between the Soviet Union and the U.S. Deploying cruise and Pershing II missiles, and Soviet SS-20 missiles, quickens that confrontation. Reckless talk from either side takes the world hand-in-hand to the brink.



Second, Jesus, as all other prophets, had to have some miracles to convince people he was a messenger of God to be followed. Thus his coming into being from only a mother was a first miracle from God to establish a sense of belief in Christ's prophecy.

Third, if Christ "claimed to be nothing less than God-the Creator of the Universe..." then was he himself who created his mother? In fact, why was not his mother a goddess also? And if he was God, then how could man crucify God-the Creator of the Universe? "To pay for human sins," you may say; but then why couldn't the Creator of the Universe simply forgive sins without being exposed to torture and crucifixion?

Amer Alaghbari
Junior, economics

Mistaken impression

I should like to correct any mistaken impression that might have resulted from a line in Ann Portal's otherwise well-written story, "System Seeks Chief," Emerald, Oct. 22. It reads: "... though candidates won't be interviewed until the consulting firm and Duncan narrow the number to around 10."

The narrowing process will be done by the search committee, not by the consulting firm nor by me.

Charles T. Duncan
Search Coordinator

Justice for all

In late 1979 a demonstration against police harassment of black people and the KKK was attacked by members of the KKK in Greensboro North Carolina, resulting in the death of five demonstrators.

This incident was depicted on television where it was clearly shown that the members of the KKK had pulled rifles out of their cars and shot and killed the communist demonstrators. Strangely, the murderers were found to be not guilty by the court and thereby released.

On Feb. 9, 1980, John Joseph Kaiser was arrested by the Eugene police for burning yellow ribbons, a symbolic gesture on his part to oppose Victor Tomseth, a former hostage in Iran and according to "Counterspy" magazine.

Although the burning of the ribbons resulted in no damage whatsoever to any person or property, and Tomseth's speech was not interrupted for more than a few minutes, John Joseph Kaiser was recently convicted of arson, with a possible sentence of 20 years imprisonment to follow.

This incident serves to remind us once again of how justice is practiced in capitalistic countries. Be a KKK member, kill five communists and go free. Be a communist, burn a yellow ribbon and spend the rest of your life in prison.

Tooraj Fooladi
Graduate, economics

Status quo

While I am certainly not among those who "look at fraternities and sororities with contempt and ridicule," I would like to present an alternative perspective to Alan W. Wright's letter concerning Greek society.

Wright pointed out (and rightly so) that "the Greek system is organized in such a way as to reflect American society." In essence, it is an embodiment of the status quo. Unquestioning and highly traditional, it is the sort of thing Mommy and Daddy are likely to be pleased with. It's comfortable. And is there anything wrong with being comfortable? Of course not. But if being comfortable means being socially and ideologically sheltered from the challenge of opposing views and perspectives, I'd say yes.

When one's stomach is usually full, they tend to forget that there are those who go to bed hungry every night. When one is white male and middle class they tend to forget that there are those who suffer degradation and discrimination because they are black, hispanic, female or poor. I believe that these are problems which young people, particularly educated young people must confront and attempt to eradicate.

Wright concluded by pointing out that the Greek system, "like most systems in American culture, is designed for the benefit and advancement of its members." My only question is this: Does this mean ignoring what is to the benefit of, and most likely to advance the interests of those outside that system? I hope not.

Christian Gunther
Junior, sociology

letters

Islamic logic

"Who is Jesus Christ?" is a question by senior journalist, Tom Visoky in his letter of Oct. 22, he stated: "He (Jesus), in fact claimed to be nothing less than God-the Creator of the Universe-in the flesh." My intention here, as a Moslem, is merely to state the Islamic logic why we believe it is blasphemous to say: "Jesus is God," or the "Son of God."

First, Jesus was not the Son of God because he was the Son of Mary, who we Moslems and Christians agree was verily a righteous human being. In our Holy Qur'an, the story starts as follows: "Relate in the Book the story of Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East. She screened herself from them; then We sent to her Our Angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects. She said: 'I seek refuge from thee to God Most Gracious: come not near if thou dost fear God.' He said: 'Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord to announce to thee the gift of a holy son.' She said: 'How shall I have a son seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?' He said: 'So it will be. Thy Lord saith that is easy for Me, and to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from us'...He (Christ) said: 'I am indeed a servant of God. He hath given me Revelation and made me a prophet.'" S. XIX, 16-21, 30.