

Conference gives students national view

"The window of vulnerability" — what a classic *non sequitur*. This latest phrase-mongering by NATO politicians and media mucky-mucks is supposed to demonstrate the perilous position of western nations in their vigilant stand against "The Red Menace" and the "Yellow Peril." The implication is that — according to Pres. Ronald Reagan — "We must close the window of vulnerability."

To achieve this Reagan has proposed spending \$1.5 trillion on military weapons, research and personnel by 1985. How that money will be spent is almost as incomprehensible as the enormity of the sum. It is difficult to conceive of defense budgets that run into the hundreds of billions of dollars, let alone a budget escalating to one-and-a-half-trillion dollars.

The National Security Conference, which began last night, may help to explain some of Reagan's motives in spending \$1.5 trillion on defense. And with both sides of the defense question being addressed by speakers, that "window" may be opened to let in some light and fresh air.

The Associated Students of the University of Oregon, along with the University Veterans Association and the Incidental Fee Committee were the prime movers in setting-up the National Security Conference. As far back as October, 1981 the Incidental Fee Committee allocated more than \$7,000 and extended a loan of \$3,000 to fund the conference. This is money well-spent.

The conference extends through Saturday and will feature speakers and topics that may prove more than just a little informative to students concerned with the draft and neo-militarism.

Today at noon the subject of military manpower will be discussed by Major General Cocklin, Charles Moskos, and Barry Lynn. They will be exploring the alleged deficiencies in the military force structure with regard to an all-volunteer force. The draft, and draft registration, areas of personal concern for students, will be discussed at this session.

That phenomenal \$1.5 trillion Reagan wants for defense will no doubt be the central argument in a discussion of the economics of military spending. The effects of defense spending on the

economy, and whether such proposed increases will enhance or endanger national security will be discussed.

A forum that assesses the Soviet threat, as to the global geo-political intentions of the CCCP and whether the Reagan administration's response is appropriate, will also be held today.

The conference will run all Saturday with programs on the impact of strategic technology on defense decision-making, international security assistance, and nuclear war deterrence and world response to U.S.-U.S.S.R. strategic policies.

The world is again tense with the military moves of the superpowers. Peace marchers are filling the streets in Europe. It's as if history has gone through a cycle. Reagan's "window of vulnerability" is a posture that doesn't sit well with many people. The National Security Conference will provide students not so much with answers, but with the opportunity to understand the implications of Reagan's defense proposals and the positions of those opposing this neo-militarism. There is much fog on the window of credibility.

letters

Time waste

We have always assumed that the purpose of an IFC budget hearing is to exchange information and serve as a give and take between the IFC and the organization seeking funds.

On Monday, Feb. 15 at 5:20 (make that 5:45), the Forensic program learned not to assume. The forensic budget hearing was not a process of exchange or a give and take, however, it was a waste of time.

It was a waste because one of the oldest, most respected programs on campus was dismantled beyond repair. It was a waste of time since the IFC (Karsten Rasmussen) had already reached a decision before the hearing and once in that room, no hearing was done. This predisposition allowed for the true attainment of due process for which we are eternally grateful.

Forensics requested \$9,700, and increase of 19 percent over last years budget of \$8,177, and received \$5,344. This 40 percent cut, even lower than the ASUO recommendation, is akin to having five kids and telling two of them that they won't be eating next year. Are we asking for sympathy? You bet damn well we are.

How the IFC could so recklessly cripple a program established before the turn of the century and currently ranked in the nation's top 2 percent is incomprehensible.

The reason for our disbelief is that we expected a cut, not a mortal wound based on previous biases and misconceptions.

It was apparent, observing the lack of questioning and discussion by the committee, that they had already reached a funding decision. Rasmussen even remarked, "You all know where I stand," which we hope is not on the IFC next year.

The lack of consideration, respect and funding that forensics received appalls and frightens us, as it should the University as a whole.

Rick Poulin
rhetoric and communication
Lori Lieberman
pre-journalism

Disturbed

David Thomas' letter Feb. 5 should hit home to every student on this campus. I'm indifferent about the mismanagement of the post office, but I am seriously disturbed that my tuition is being used to fund the gay people's group here on campus.

Let's cut the niceties. I like to call a fag a fag. I am disgusted that my hard-earned money is spent to keep some fag in Vaseline. I find homosexuality repugnant, and it really burns me to be forced to support that which I am morally opposed.

On a similiar line, the ASUO has actually published 'where the money goes' in the Emerald. Again, I am sickened by what I see. There is a special interest group for everyone except white heterosexual males. Now that's inequity. I have to pay so that minorities can get together and call attention to their differences, and whine and moan about how rough they have it.

Special interest groups based



on race, such as the Black Student Union, the Chinese Student Association and the Native American Student Union, serve no purpose other than to demonstrate how really different these people are from the rest of the student population. Black women must be exceptionally hardcore cases since they have both the Black Student Union and the Ethnic Women's Alliance, not to mention the multitude of women women's groups to help them out.

I guess I wouldn't be complaining so much if there was a White Male's Student Union. Then the rest of you could know that I am really different and truly a member of an oppressed group of people. If any of you white males out there have ever tried to get a job with the U.S. government, you'll know what I mean.

And what is the Muslim

Student Association? Aren't there laws against the state paying for religion? And if not, why isn't there a catholic or protestant student association funded by the ASUO?

There is really no need to go further. The point is this: the students at the University are supporting special interest groups which may serve a useful purpose. But, should we be funding those groups which detract from our campus and which serve no useful purpose? I think not.

Michael Patrick Lysne
business student

Bottleneck

The computer and information science students are experiencing a bottleneck of their own doing. A programmer cannot rely on having computer time available at the last minute

any more than they can rely on their program to work the first time.

I can imagine the scene at the computer center as students hurriedly write programs as they enter them at a terminal. And then spend hours debugging a sloppily written program at a terminal. The organized students; who started designing the program when it was assigned; who wrote the program on paper and walked through its logic before entering it on the computer; who entered and debugged their program weeks ago, are the ones who completed their lab on time.

Increasing the computer center's capacity to handle peak loads (for last minute students) will only encourage poor programming habits. I don't feel sorry for them at all.

Jack Debrick
senior, computer science

staff

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