

Something sinister in the games they play

There is more than a passing concern with worldwide nuclear arms proliferation and the game the superpowers are playing to maintain a balance of power. The contest is at stalemate now in what is aptly termed "mutual assured destruction", but is best expressed with the acronym MAD.

To say "concern" doesn't adequately convey the extent of sentiment rising against nuclear arms. In Europe tens of thousands of demonstrators have staged protests against the Soviets and Americans stock-piling nuclear weaponry in NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. Demonstrations calling for a nuclear-freeze have been held across this country. But the demonstrators aren't the important players in this deadly game.

The Reagan administration is continually talking peace and making what appears to be overtures for disarmament to the Soviets. Yet, in spite of the "public" peace-making the arms race continues to escalate. Pres. Reagan's limited disarmament plan of last fall named "Zero option" apparently has been discarded.

Now comes a report that seemingly with the blessing of the White House a five-day "mock" nuclear crisis was staged in early March. The report carried in the Wall Street Journal detailed how former Secretary of State William Rogers played "the president" and directed a world-wide nuclear war game.

The five-day scenario included the movement of over 1,000 civilian and military players throughout the world. But the "ultimate moment" was reported to have occurred late in day four when the North American Air Defense Command picked up a major incoming Soviet missile strike. Hundreds of Soviet missiles hit targets in the U.S., and Rogers, as president, figuratively died in the situation room. Former CIA Director Richard Helms, playing vice-president during the war game, took over the government for the remainder of the game.

It seems horrendous for the Reagan adminis-

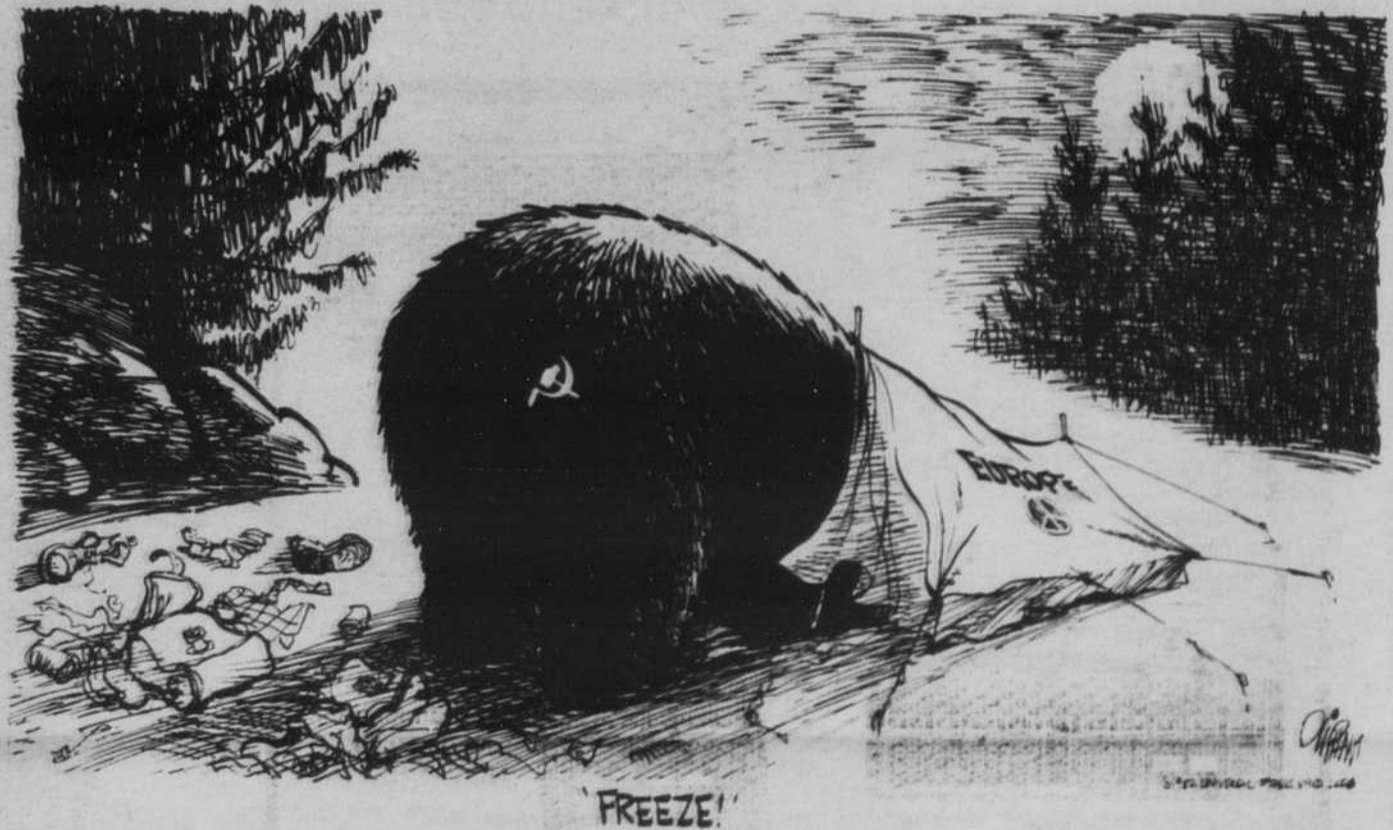
tration to be even indirectly participating in mock nuclear war situations. Is this merely a game? Or is it a test of the "first-strike" capability?

Reagan was reported to be convinced that the mock nuclear war proved the government has the capacity for a "continuity" of power during a nuclear strike. That is extremely comforting to know that as the fire-storms rake the planet there will be a "continuity" in the U.S. government.

This is an insane "game" to be playing. What does this mock nuclear war say to the Soviets? It implies the U.S. is testing out its "first strike" capabilities and ability to survive a retaliatory

strike. It will definitely be read as such by Kremlin analysts.

This war game is indicative of the unresponsiveness of the Reagan administration to the concerns of the American people. A broad-based coalition consisting of politicians, clergy, and educators have joined in a call for a nuclear-freeze. But will the Reagan administration listen? How many years did it take the government to finally hear the shouts of protest against Viet Nam involvement? Too many years and too many lives were wasted in the waiting for the dawning of peace. We are waiting still.



letters

Appreciation

We would like to express our appreciation for the University theater's production of "Peer Gynt" last term. We found the production itself and Jim Conant's acting amazing, and therefore were especially disappointed in retrospect about the Emerald's review, which we don't feel did justice to the ambition, energy, and creativity which obviously went into the play.

We hope that the cast and production department know how much we and the University community appreciated the effort, and remarkable achievement.

Barbara and Christer Mossberg
English and Humanities

Congratulations

Your editorial "Davis' task, a

challenge to the utmost" in the March 15 Emerald was an accurate and perceptive analysis of the circumstances surrounding the recent appointment of William Davis to the post of Chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

We believe that the State Board has employed the candidate best suited to the Oregon system. He has the experience, and we believe the personal qualities, to sustain and even improve the system in the difficult times that lie ahead.

Again, congratulations on a fair and perceptive editorial.

Edward Harms
president, Oregon State
Board of Higher Education

Fallibility

You recently published an editorial article which criticized a test given by the School of Journalism for its apparent

over-emphasis on the spelling of obscure words.

Since that time, I have noticed in your pages several misspellings of words that are not at all obscure (e.g., "principle" for "principal," "conscience" for "consciousness," "old-fashion" for "old-fashioned," "alleged" for "alleged").

I hope that these misspellings reflect mere carelessness and not a new editorial policy.

Lawrence Crumb

Liberal tradition

The people bitching out Pres. Paul Olum ought to read Ken Metzler's "Confrontation", the story of University Pres. Charles Johnson's tenure.

Just as Johnson did, Olum is speaking out strongly for our liberal traditions. He is not fighting battles he cannot win or building conflict that could create even more enemies of

the University. We lost a fair and honest man in Johnson and ended up with the Nixonian Boyd.

Herbert Scanlon
Alumnus

We dare you

We dare you to print this letter.

Dave Kanner & Dan Clark
KZEL 96 radio

Faculty salary

It was with sorrow that I read the Emerald's editorial of 5 March, in which you urged faculty to take pay cuts in order to solve our current financial crisis, but not to take the proposed educational leaves or to accept being laid off, since those options would mean either larger classes for students or less class time for

students or both. You also state that tuition has been increased recently to meet the continuing financial problems, whereas faculty salaries have not been decreased.

What sorrows me is that the Emerald, and perhaps other students, seem to be eager to let these difficult times bring divisiveness, when we should be uniting in a common front.

You have made a serious error in your contrast between tuition and salaries, and that is your failure to adjust for inflation. When adjusted for inflation, tuition has hardly risen at all in the last five years, whereas faculty salaries have fallen drastically.

Jack T. Sanders
AAUP chapter president
editor's note: The editorial did not urge University faculty to take a pay cut but to postpone for six months a scheduled salary increase as a means to meet the budget cut.

staff

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