

# Former weapons designer blasts nuclear arms race

By Michele Matassa  
Of the Emerald

Robert Aldridge, a former designer of nuclear weapons, painted a fairly gloomy picture of the arms race but admitted there is hope for an end to the escalation of nuclear weapons production and deployment Monday night.

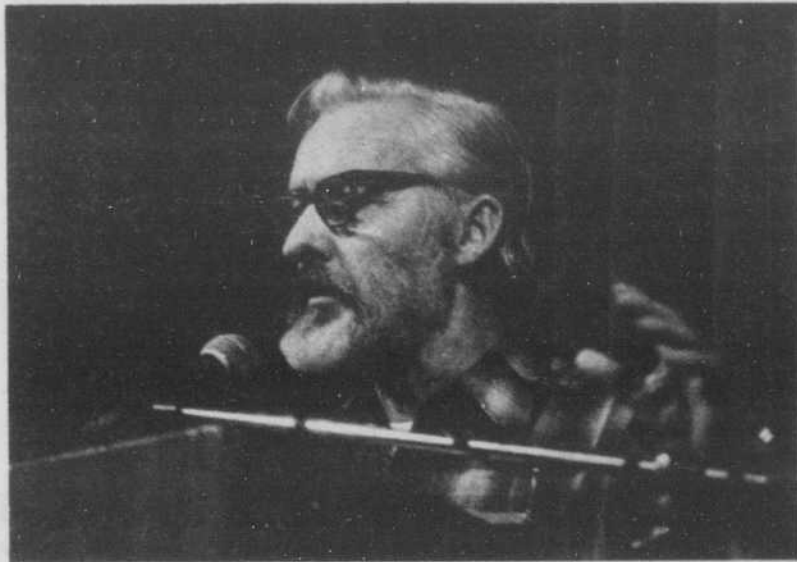
Aldridge, who worked 16 years for Lockheed Missile and Space Company before resigning to fight the arms race, said an anti-arms race grassroots effort and groups within the medical field, such as Physicians for Social Responsibility, are examples of "a cause for hope but not a cause for apathy." Everyone should take an active part in opposing the arms race, he said.

The main aspect of the arms race that encourages it is business, Aldridge said. By attaining decision-making positions in the defense department, corporate executives are replacing military decisions with business decisions, he said.

"The profit- and the power-seekers are exactly what is keeping the arms race going."

The design expert added that fear of the Soviets and unemployment are also causes of the arms race. Fear of unemployment can be countered by studies which show that employment levels could actually be improved by moving money away from nuclear weapons and the military, he said.

The concept of "selectivity and flexibility" is a "euphemism for what is known as



Former arms designer Robert Aldridge lamented nuclear proliferation in a speech Monday sponsored by the Cultural Forum.

limited nuclear warfare," he said. The idea of limited (or "theater") warfare is dangerous because it makes nuclear war seem more feasible and more acceptable to the public, Aldridge said.

The fallacy in using "limited warfare" to justify arms build-ups is that any type of nuclear war between superpowers is likely to escalate into full scale nuclear war, he said.

After outlining the possible fatalities involved in nuclear war — a fatality rate of 80 million for the Poseidon weapon system alone — Aldridge discussed deaths already caused by the arms race.

"Nuclear weapons are killing people right now," he said. "We don't have to wait for the bombs to explode."

The departments of energy and defense have admitted to 26 incidents of major nuclear accidents, which contributed to this death rate, Aldridge said. He defined "major nuclear accidents" as those which "could result in detonation of a nuclear weapon."

The major factor in current nuclear deaths, however, is a loss of social needs due to unprecedented military spending, according to Aldridge. In fiscal year 1982, the military spent \$10,600 every two seconds; in undeveloped countries, one child dies every two seconds, Aldridge said.

In order to stop the escalating arms race, Aldridge said the people of the United States need to experience a change in attitude.

## Olum appoints student choices

University Pres. Paul Olum has appointed 13 more students to student-faculty committees.

Olum confirmed the appointees, nominated by the Student Committee on Committees, last week.

Students appointed and their committees are: Alison Cooney — Student Health Services; Dave Bauer, Jeff Nudelman, Jill Summers — Academic Requirements; Thomas Egan — ROTC Advisory; Mark Cleveland — Admissions Policy; Robert Mooers — Equal Employment Opportunity; Gary Okazaki — Ethnic Studies; Dean Freed, Jay Johnson — University Appeals Board; and David Montgomery, Roy Yackulic and David Gwynn — Student Conduct.

## Survival Center seeks organizer

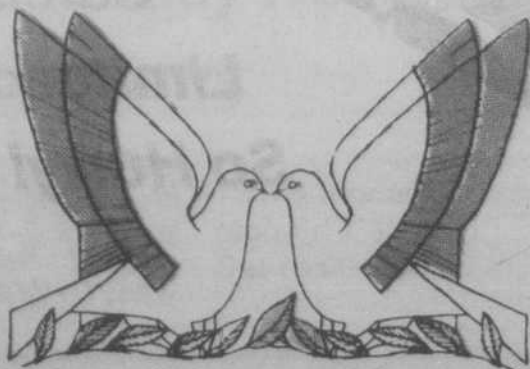
The Survival Center is now accepting applications for its legislative coordinator position.

The new coordinator will monitor bills and legislative committees and organize testimony for committee hearings, says Jan Flaharty, the group's assistant director. The position is salaried, he adds.

The coordinator will be working with environmental legislators such as Margie Hendriksen, Grattan Kerans and Mary Burrows, Flaharty says. The center may try to submit bills not already under consideration, he adds.

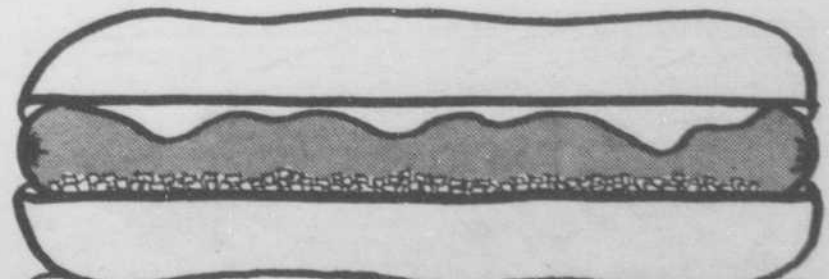
One concern will be uranium mill tailings, a low-level radioactive substance that is stored in Oregon, Flaharty says. Although the depressed economy has halted such storage, the Survival Center wants to insure any types of low-level radioactive materials are stored outside the state, he says.

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