

opinion

Deny MX toy box

How the Congress could deny the president his new Wyoming-based toy box is beyond the ken of the Emerald.

Yet, there are some concerned defense-oriented Congressmen who actually have the unmitigated audacity to fight our commander-in-chief on the truly lethal dense pack MX.

But a look at the defense capabilities of the weapon will assure the most skeptical that this weapon is based on the deafest of defense plans.

The MX is based on the profound fear of a nuclear first-strike attack on the United States by the Soviets.

The greatness of the \$35 billion little set of explosives depends on a fratricide theory — they nuke one pack of our bombs, but can't get them all in one fell swoop. Their radioactive mist is so thick that they deflect their own second or third cluster of bombs giving the MX time to deploy.

The fratricide theory also assumes that our dense pack of bombs — kind of a six-pack of bombs stored in a 14 by 1.5 mile block of silos — will be able to get through the radioactive stuff and counterattack.

Opponents of the MX mention that the dense pack missiles could be destroyed by one big bomb developed by 1990. But in their infinite wisdom the military strategists have an answer: The Soviets are cheap. They will not spend money on a bomb big enough to take out the rectangle of densely packed MX's.

And if that isn't enough insurance, the weapons tinkers could eventually build an anti-ballistic missile that would explode any Whooper Soviet bomb.

The ABM's would break our SALT agreement to "limit" ABM usage, but gosh were talking about a system that assumes a first strike.

MX's are better than the Minutemen because they can be moved — loaded on trucks and discharged from them.

The Congress already considered the "Peace train" MX under Carter — nobody wanted it rumbling through their land. Now the President wants a "Peacekeeper."

What logic defies installing an easily-moveable-temporarily-permanent set of bombs that presuppose a nuclear war so that we never have one?

The Emerald understands.

However, we support the Congressional clear-thinkers who ask that our defense budget be scrutinized. Even funds for conventional warfare or aid to the personnel in the armed forces would be better than this continued saga of escalation before negotiation.

Ultimately, the president should consider giving up the toy box and consider arms reductions. But that definitely is above the Emerald's ken.



letters

Butchered

By now I am quite accustomed to being misquoted by Emerald interviewers, although I still wish they would employ a tape recorder or at least learn to use shorthand when interviewing. I am less accustomed to but not very concerned about my utterances (for a change accurately reported) being attributed to my good friend Ron Wixman; although the quote ran contra to his own "absolute beliefs." I felt it makes him at least look good — so why not? (Emerald, Nov. 12 and 15).

Neither am I bothered by having my picture (taken by your very talented Dave Kao) appear in reverse (Nov. 12) or being described as "a professor of Russian" (Nov. 18); the Russian language is, after all, very beautiful and I love Russian literature.

What really annoys me is having my jokes butchered (Nov. 18). Once Stalin executed the stationmaster, engineer and conductor, they were obviously no longer available for "re-education" by Khrushchev, or anyone else.

What Khrushchev did was "rehabilitate" the stationmaster, engineer and conductor — posthumously, of course — but the train still did not move. It is only at that point that Brezhnev stepped in to draw the blinds and pretend movement.

Unlike the train in the Soviet joke, the Emerald does move and fast — but, unfortunately, too often along some wayward tracks.

Joseph Fizman
professor, political science

No resolutions

Speaking only for myself and not as a spokesperson for

Students Opposed to Registration and the Draft (SORD), I would like to provide a few corrections in order to clarify what occurred at the Nov. 23 meeting reported in the Emerald.

The new group has made very few actual resolutions so far, because it is so new, and the goal is for unanimous agreement on permanent decisions. Your article gave the impression that some topics which were only debated were actually resolved. No "vows" were taken as to opposition to the many war-related organizations your article quoted. Those were not resolutions. We are concentrating on simple logistics and organization of a student groups at this stage, and those "vows" we felt were premature, though later they will be debated again.

A particularly important misunderstanding on the part of your reporter was the statement that "some members opposed having to abide by University rules." That was never an issue at the meeting for one moment. The discussion was of the possibility of University control impinging on the goals of the group to organize its administration and activities along the equitable lines we have adopted.

Our affiliation with the University as a student group was not postponed. After our third organizational meeting today, we will apply as a student group. The more members we have, the happier we will be.

One last correction must be made. Our third meeting and the last one for this term will be held in Room 112 EMU, not the room your article said. It will be held today at 7:00 p.m. and anyone interested is urged to come help tie things together. It is a fine, enthusiastic group.

Molly Widmer
Eugene

Human factor

If you support the use of United States soldiers in other nations' conflicts then maybe you should think about who would and wouldn't be drafted into a war. Homosexuals, drug addicts, members of anti-American groups and the like are currently exempt from military service. They stay home if war breaks out. Also exempt are those with mental and physical problems.

Instead our country sends its healthy, intelligent and patriotic young men to die on foreign battlefields. In nature the strong survive to raise posterity, but in the human world the strong are chosen to be blasted away.

Remember, for every young man of that group killed that's one less father who would have passed on desirable traits to another generation.

Besides sacrificing men of that category, now some "champions of equality" want to place young women in the ranks as well. I see no better way to accelerate the depletion of the cream of the crop of a nation.

Whose side are pro-draft, pro-war types on anyway? Each war has sapped this country's strength not only economically, but socially and genetically as well.

Each war this century has taken heavy toll on the finest products of our culture nearly every two decades. Such a weeding out process will be disastrous for our civilization's strength in the longrun.

Think about it: Extinction is forever and when a young person is killed in combat that's the end of that potential family line. Are our national interests best served in fighting in some foreign war or protecting our greatest resource — our people?

Lori Parkman

letters

Love letter

This is an open love letter to everyone connected with the University Theatre production of "Oh, What a Lovely War!"

It was a marvelous production of the play, superior to the film version. The juxtaposition of monstrous and horrifying World War I experience with a combination of dance, farce, music-hall routines, poignant scenes and bitter comedy came as a

shock to older people in the audience, but to a Saturday Night Live generation, it seemed very effective.

I'd love to see the theatre jammed with students. We laughed, caught our breaths, even came close to tears during this fine and imaginative production. Thanks to everyone, in particular those incredibly fine singers.

Barbara Nicholls
Counselor for Student Athletes

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