

# opinion

## The 'Baby Doctor' fights war anxieties

Dr. Benjamin Spock, noted pediatrician and co-chairman of the National Committee for a Safe Nuclear Policy, reminded a sparse weekend crowd in the EMU Ballroom of the everpresent anxiety of nuclear war that we live with during "The Nuclear Age."

He didn't need to remind people.

The threat, the tension of nuclear war, is omnipresent. It's ironic that these nuclear weapons, which are designed to be a deterrent to war for either side, not only threaten them, but also threaten us.

The "Baby Doctor," as Spock has been known for more than three decades, was concerned with the anxieties of the children. He said their anxiety was not so much for their own lives, but for the lives of their parents in the event of a nuclear war.

Weapons, whether defensively or offensively, are deployed to protect a nation and ensure its security for future generations. It's more irony then that the children, the most innocent of all, in Spock's estimation suffer the most anxiety for this security.

Spock contends that the nuclear war anxiety, suffered in silence through childhood, spoils a child's optimism. Optimism turns sour and becomes cynicism in young adults. He supported this by saying more than half the population of this country believes there will be a nuclear war by the year 2,000.

There's no way to ascertain whether there will be a nuclear war in the next 17 years. The prospect is horrid. No one will be happily shouting "I told you so" on the mounds of smoking cinders.

But Spock's views on popular cynicism must be tempered with the realization that there are those who are dedicated to freezing the buildup of nuclear weapons, dedicated to eliminating missiles in Europe, and dedicated to reducing the stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

This isn't cynicism — this is activism. Unfortunately, the site of this activism isn't predominantly here in the United States, nor in the Soviet Union, it's in Europe.

Still speaking to parents, Spock encouraged them to write to the leaders of the nuclear powers. He especially encouraged them to have their children write. Spock believes children's letters to leaders carry more weight and do more good. No one can doubt the pathos of a child's plea for nuclear disarmament.

Perhaps this is so — if one recalls Samantha Smith's letter to Soviet President Yuri Andropov and the subsequent invitation to her to tour the Soviet Union. Smith asked Andropov to help prevent a nuclear war. Smith's letter must have been prompted by the anxiety Spock spoke of — yet, instead of reacting with silent cynicism, she expressed her anxiety in a letter.

Spock is an uncanny observer of our times. Then again, he has the most unique vantage point. Spock is arguably the most influential figure in the rearing of the present generation of Americans. His theories on child-rearing were pervasive and readily accepted by millions of parents. The children reared by Spock's methods are now rearing children of their own.

The "Baby Doctor" has expanded his practice, now he's examining the nuclear sickness of the world. As we did the decades before, we should listen and follow his advice.

## Anti-nuclear activists more active in Europe

For the last three years European anti-nuclear activists have engaged in the most visible and strident demonstrations. Often the demonstrations became pitched battles with police.

West Germany was the scene Saturday of 30,000 demonstrators protesting the planned deployment of NATO missiles in Europe.

The anti-nuclear protests in Europe beg a comparison with political activism in the United States during the Vietnam war. The fervor is the same — as is the determination to voice (loudly and en masse) opposition to the government's policy. In this instance it's NATO's missile deployment.

However, comparisons end there. Anti-nuclear activism in this country is more a cause for shame than pride. The movement here is ill-organized, ill-prepared, and largely infested with a inactive malaise notorious to this country in the '80s. Those NATO missiles are not being deployed in the U.S. — so who cares? While we dread sloganeering as much as anybody, involvement is the key.

### letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Comment" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Comment" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

Letters to the editor and "Comment" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.



## letters

### Marital law?

I'm burning with desire (as no doubt is the entire academic community, along with any other Emerald devotees) for intimate details (and how did this ever slip by me in the past?) on "Philippines Pres. Marcos imposed marital law in 1963" — as well as the rest of your notice Oct. 12 correcting this statement to "The imposition of marital law actually occurred in September of 1972."

However, and if (unhappily) this proves to be "martial" law — forget it.

Kay Wells

### Astonishing

One statement made in Tom Visoky's Comments article is simply astonishing — namely that life in Cambodia under the Vietnamese occupation is "hardly much better" than during the reign of the Khmer Rouge. Really? Have the Vietnamese exterminated another 30 percent of the remaining population since they drove out the Khmer butchers?

I understand that Phnom Penh has revived from the ghost town of 1978 to become a bustling city once more. The Buddhist temples which the Red Cambodians converted to charnel houses have been reopened for worship under the new regime. What's my source for these claims? That comic rag, The Wall Street Journal.

Mark Davis  
biology graduate

### Area of concern

In a recent edition of the Emerald you published a short article about our Outdoor Leadership Certificate Program. We appreciate the article, however, there are two points that need clarification. The article strongly implied that the program would soon constitute a minor in Physical Education. While the pro-

gram may at some point be considered as a component of such a minor, we have not made any decisions as to what sets of courses might eventually constitute minor programs in Physical Education. The program or any part thereof is open to any student at the University wanting to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for personal or professional leadership of outdoor activities. A certificate will be awarded to those who successfully complete the program.

Our second area of concern was with regard to the quote from me that our outings "an intense experience" spent "running like mad." Out of context that is highly misleading. Our outings are designed to convey as much information and provide as much skills training as possible. While we do "go for it," it simply isn't possible to "run like mad" and teach at the same time. Safety and the need to focus on skills require a modest pace on most outings. The nature of our terrain and weather are such that even beginning level outings occasionally turn into epic ventures, but intentional pursuit of physically rigorous and/or technically demanding adventure is limited to our more advanced classes. The program offers enjoyable and exciting opportunities for any reasonably fit student.

Jim Blanchard  
coord., outdoor pursuits program

### Really bothered

Every Fall the Emerald and the Greek community make a big stink about what the other is doing to make University life less appealing. I'm going to make my contribution by telling everybody about the things that bother me more than anything either could say or print about the other.

First, it really bothers me that my roommate's girlfriend uses so much toilet paper when she

comes over. It's always clogging the toilet. Second, the Ant Motel that I bought "where ants check in but never check out" doesn't work and we still have ants. Just the other day I found a bunch of dead ants floating around in my cereal. Third, the woman in the upstairs apartment always wakes me up in the morning with her 10 minute jazzercise routine. And finally, Armageddon really has me worried.

Christopher Anderson  
junior, economics, philosophy

### On the house

I applaud Pres. Paul Olum's stand on alcohol in Autzen Stadium. He showed fine judgement by reversing a very hastily made, and irresponsible decision, which would have allowed the sale of alcohol in Autzen.

His decision is a good one because he kept the University out of the tavern business, set the safety of the community above the desire to pad a shamefully underfunded Athletic Department budget, and ensured that students would continue to sneak in their own hooch, and not pay the inflated prices the concession stands were going to charge for the proposed wine and beer.

As concerning my feeling about drinking in the Stadium Club, I think it's fine. At ten grand a pop, I'd let them drink all they want. Money doesn't come easy in Oregon, and if these big money donors wants to throw that kind of cash down to sit through an Oregon football game, then I say "buy that man a drink!"

In fact, I hear the boys up in the Stadium Club have to buy their own drinks; that's no way to treat a donor. For \$10,000 (or considerably less) they can come over to my house, sit in the best seats, and watch any game they wish. And the drinks will be on the house.

Henry Hosfield

## oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial 686-5511  
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712  
Classified Advertising 686-4343  
Production 686-4381  
Circulation 686-5511

Editor  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Assistant News Editor  
Editorial Page Editor  
Photo Editor  
Sports Editor  
Sidelines Editor  
Entertainment Editor  
Assistant Entertainment Editor  
Night Editor  
Associate Editors  
Higher Education  
Departments and Schools  
Student Government  
Features  
Politics  
Community  
General Staff  
Advertising Manager  
Classified Advertising  
Production Manager  
Controller

Debbie Howlett  
Sandy Johnstone  
Frank Shaw  
Brenda Thornton  
Cort Fernald  
Dave Kao  
Doug Levy  
John Healy  
Angela Allen Morgan  
Kim Carlson  
Frank Shaw  
Doug Nash  
Melissa Martin  
Jim Moore  
Joan Herman  
Brooks Dareff  
Michele Matassa  
Darlene Gore  
Sally Oljar  
Victoria Koch  
Jean Ownbey