

# opinion

## Partisan votes defeat nuclear freeze plan

The nuclear freeze movement experienced another major setback Monday when the U.S. Senate defeated the mutual and verifiable nuclear freeze proposal.

The proposal was offered by Sens. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., in the best tradition of bi-partisanship. They attached the nuclear freeze resolution as an amendment to a bill raising the national debt ceiling. In the worst tradition of partisan voting, the Republican-led Senate voted mostly on party lines and rejected the nuclear freeze resolution.

Kennedy and Hatfield seemed resolved to play the waiting game and wait for another opportunity to attach the nuclear freeze resolution onto another bill.

The senators issued a joint statement to this effect.

"We will bring up our resolution again and again until the Senate catches up with the House and the American people in their overwhelming support for this essential step to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race," the statement read.

The Kennedy/Hatfield nuclear freeze — basically the same resolution the House passed in May — calls on the Soviet Union and the United States to negotiate an immediate, mutual and verifiable freeze on all production, development and deployment of nuclear weapons, and then to begin reducing the arsenals.

The most recent surveys indicate nearly three-fourths of Americans polled are in favor of some type of a nuclear freeze. This makes for interesting irony with the Kennedy/Hatfield statement and shows the partisan and dilatory nature of the Republican-led Senate.

It appears the chauvinistic paranoiacs have won again. Pres. Ronald Reagan has zealously maintained the United States must increase its arsenal of nuclear weapons to pressure the Soviet Union into some sort of disarmament agreement. That's rather like building weapons to fight a war so that no war will be fought. Reagan also contends — tacitly — that a limited nuclear war can be won.

Reagan is more suicidal than savior, as are his henchmen who defeated the nuclear freeze resolution. Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, said the resolution would give the Soviets a great advantage. And like a good conservative, Garn noted the Soviets have surpassed the U.S. in nuclear arms.

It's really unfortunate the Kennedy/Hatfield nuclear freeze was defeated. The American people favored it, but it appears a handful of partisans are turning a deaf ear to the will of the people. How much longer will we have to wait until a sane move is made to end the nuclear arms madness?

## Defense vs. press; censorship wins

The Defense department's restrictions on journalists during the initial stages of the invasion of Grenada smacks of press censorship.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors have lodged a letter of protest with the Defense department objecting to the failure to honor the "on-the-scene coverage of American military operations."

U.S. military authorities barred reporters from Grenada for two days following the invasion. It's lead to bitter feelings in the press and possibly the resignation of a White House press officer.

Leslie Janka, a White House press officer specializing in foreign policy, resigned Monday because of the administration's handling of information about the Grenada invasion.

In its letter of protest ASNE recalled the tradition of press coverage of the military dating from World War II. We think of Edward Morrow broadcasting from a rooftop in London while German bombers devastated the city — or Ernie Pyle with the U.S. Army in Italy — or Richard Tregaskis with the U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal. Who can forget CBS' Ed Bradley in Vietnam, on camera, wounded, reporting with the U.S. Army?

A free press is essential to a free society — the Reagan administration ought to remember that as it claims to restore democracy to politically oppressed islands.



## Working for our best interests

I have had a few occasions to do something I find personally distasteful, however important that action might be to a greater end. The decision is never easy, and it is always controversial.

Such was the case when I made a motion to remove Dane Claussen from the *Oregon Daily Emerald's* Board of Directors. Claussen, a former *Emerald* associate editor, and I have worked together, got drunk together, and debated journalism together. I would consider him a friend. I think he considers me to be a friend.

### editor's note debbie howlett

The point of all of this is that while I voted to remove Claussen from the *Emerald's* Board of Directors last week, my motivation was not personal. My motivation was in looking out for the best interests of the *Emerald*, as I hope was every other board members' motivation.

I voted to remove Claussen because I believe he was not acting in the *Emerald's* best interest.

The board, strictly adhering to its own bylaws, removed Claussen by a 7-1 vote. Claussen, who says he was confused by the motion, voted in favor of removing himself. Richard Burr, an ASUO appointed representative, was retained as a member of the board by a 5-2 vote.

What has happened in the past few weeks has

made me wonder why Claussen, or Burr for that matter, would care to sit on the *Emerald* board anyway.

Claussen is publisher and Burr is editor of a new bi-weekly publication called the *Oregon Commentator*. Claussen, no less than viciously, attacked the *Emerald* and its staff (as well as other campus publications) in his first issue.

Statements such as "*Commentator* articles will tell you what other campus publications are unable to tell you because of the inexperience, incompetence, or narrow-mindedness of their staffs," lend credence to the argument that Claussen is not acting in the *Emerald's* best interest. And Claussen says that had the board kept him on he would have resigned anyway.

I'm puzzled by it all because I have yet to hear Claussen say that he is concerned about the well-being of the *Emerald*. I have only heard that he, as an elected official, was wronged. That seems to be a personal motivation.

It isn't the board's intent to dismiss the students voice in its body. It isn't the board's intent to say that Claussen has any conflicts, either in his interests or in his ethics.

I write this column not as an apologist for the board's action, but as a member of the board explaining her actions to the students the *Emerald* serves and to provide insight into the decision.

I think I speak for the entire board when I say the decision was neither easily, nor lightly, reached. But I am still convinced the decision was in the best interests of the *Emerald*, and its readership.

## letters

### That time again

In a recent letter to our local media published Oct. 15, Ms. Prebehalla expressed her sincere concern for the lack of police protection afforded her and other persons residing in the McKenzie Valley area. Prebehalla specifically referred to the reassignment of a deputy sheriff formally assigned to the Blue River District.

Emphasizing her concerns, Prebehalla stated, "...so a plea is

hereby made to the person or persons who can help. Please give us back our deputy. He is desperately needed... a sheriff's deputy is like a security blanket needed by young and old alike."

Many letters expressing similar concerns have been published, but I was particularly moved by the desperate tone of Prebehalla's writing, because you see, Prebehalla, there is someone who can help, but refuses to do so. The same person who has denied you and your neighbors a vital public service has been less than candid in response to your pleas.

Sheriff Dave Burks will have you believe that fiscal constraints have prohibited him from restoring police protection to the areas of Blue River, Oakridge, and Florence.

Not so, Prebehalla. Let me assure you that the present duties of the officer formally assigned to the Blue River District, and the officer currently assigned to the Florence sub-station, do not impede their ability to respond to emergency or life threatening situations. However, because of directives used by Sheriff Burks, these deputies are restricted from performing the basic function of

their office — the protection of life and property.

It's a pathetic situation that you and other citizens are being unduly penalized for the defeat of a law enforcement levy. It's disheartening to me, Prebehalla, because I am aware of these facts, but powerless to act in your behalf.

Ron Ciasullo  
candidate for lane county sheriff

### Then quit

If Pres. Ronald Reagan is as bothered as he claims to be about having the worst job in the world, having to make telephone calls consoling grieving parents of dead Marines, he would not put himself in a position where he would have this job.

If he was as much of a humanitarian as he portrays, and would like the public to believe he is, he would withdraw the Marines from Lebanon so that no more Marines would be killed there. With no more Marines getting killed in Lebanon, Reagan would no longer have the worst job in the world, which bothers him so much.

Adam Schlutz  
history

oregon daily  
**emerald**

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