

opinion

Can you imagine life without the threat?

Imagine enjoying a bit of the occasional sunshine while sitting on the wall in front of the EMU.

Imagine casually laughing and talking with friends while a lone guitar player in the brick courtyard below gently strums a classical tune.

Imagine a gentle breeze swirling brittle brown and orange leaves from the naked grey limbs of the trees lining 13th Avenue.

Imagine the radio of a car counterpointing the lone guitarist as it eases up University Street.

Imagine a moment of quiet and then the sky being split by the shrill scream of an air raid siren.

Imagine the looks of bewilderment on your friends' faces. Imagine the hugeness of their eyes and the confusion as they clap their hands to their ears and shout above the air raid siren, "What's happening?"

Imagine the panic when you realize this is not a test, that the thread upon which nuclear holocaust has dangled for almost four decades has snapped.

Imagine running and running with no idea where to go. Imagine the streets full of people running and shouting hysterically. Imagine there is no turning back, no waking from this nightmare. Imagine no place to hide and no future beyond the score of moments remaining.

Imagine the sun and sky suddenly becoming white hot. Then you are no longer able to imagine.

Perhaps this is fanciful — if one can be fanciful on nuclear war — but the horrors are real. Perhaps more real and unimaginable than can be captured by a snippet of prose.

Today at noon students who can imagine and fear the horrors of nuclear war will "die" for the cause of nuclear disarmament in the free speech area in front of the EMU. They "die" to eradicate the fear and, what seems, the inevitability of nuclear war.

The third annual Die-In culminates the "Week of Education" conducted by Students for a Nuclear Free Future and the ASUO. The seminars and speeches have been met with a lot of interest and the response has been for the most part positive.

Imagine living your life without the spectre of nuclear war lurking in the back of your mind. Impossible?

Assembly vote shows political reality

Although the Emerald opposes the whole idea of the proposed governance system, student representation may have reached its optimum at eight.

The overwhelming vote of the faculty at the Assembly meeting Wednesday showed that the political reality of the situation will not allow for more members. Eight has been set as the "compromise" number and should be accepted by the members of the Student University Affairs Board. Further actions to change the number may only lead to a reduction, not an increase, in the number of students on the Senate.

Few could argue successfully that the current Senate has great influence over faculty decisions. On many issues, such as the ROTC controversy last year, the Assembly has not adopted the recommendation of the Senate. Even on the current governance issue, the Assembly did not support the motion for 14 student representatives although it passed in the Senate.

Thus, students may actually have more power in the new Senate with eight members, than they do in the Assembly with 18 students to 900 faculty.

But is a change in the governance system necessary or desirable?

The Emerald would urge the faculty to retain the current system.

Why does the University need to go to a representative system? Granted, the town meeting may not be the quickest form of governance, but at least all points of view are represented.

There is no guarantee that a more powerful Senate would be more effective. What is almost sure to happen is that some voices will be left out of the process.



letters

Blood, treasure

When I see our country getting involved in the internal affairs of sovereign nations all over the world, beginning with Korea, pouring out our blood and treasure, while our society sickens at home, I am reminded of the teachings of Jesus:

"Cast out the beam in thine own eye, and then thou shalt see clearly to cast out the mote in thy neighbor's eye."

We have plenty to do to set our own house in order. "Pride goeth before a fall."

Let us in, all humility and common sense, re-dedicate ourselves to the political wisdom outlined in Washington's farewell address before it is too late.

Ken Tomkinson
citizen

Not upset, angry

I am neither upset nor angry with Theresa Purviance-Garcia's "views" (Emerald Nov. 3) because I am unable to see the point or points she is trying to make. If she intended her "Comment" to be humorous, then she has a queer sense of humor.

As a Muslim, I believe that the All-compassionate, All-merciful God will, in due course enlighten you on the point you are trying to make. In the meantime, I would like to state the following:

The Ten Commandments handed down to Moses are a wonderful set of moral rules. However, Purviance-Garcia ought to explain how enforcing the observance of the Sabbath (the fourth commandment) would eliminate the various social ills, such as promiscuity and homosexuality. I can sympathize with her displeasure at seeing her fellow Christians mercilessly treating those whose lifestyles they find disagreeable. Perhaps they are acting in the spirit of the Old Testament God, who is, after all, a "jealous God." (Exodus 20:5).

Probably the world would be better off if societies were to implement the commandments of the merciful and compassionate God who speaks through the Holy Koran. Since there exist states whose rulers claim to be doing this, maybe Christians could learn the proper procedures from them.

Sharifah Munirah Alatas
biology

Central America

For five months, the ASUO's Student Events office has been working with students and community groups to organize the upcoming "Crisis in Central America: An Educational Conference" Nov. 17-19 at the University.

Why a conference on Central America? The crisis in Central America is deepening daily, and although all parties involved agree that the conflicts must be resolved, there is little consensus on how to go about this.

Because the U.S. government is becoming increasingly involved in Central America, the ASUO feels it is extremely important that students, faculty and the community, as responsible participants in our democratic system, have accurate information about the region's history, the current situation, and the wide variety of viewpoints about how the conflict should be resolved.

Since these issues are so controversial, the conference features a wide variety of speakers and viewpoints. Featured speakers who will take part in panel discussions range from Col. Larry Tracy, representing the U.S. State Dept., to Felix Kury of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (the coalition opposing the Salvadoran government).

In addition, workshops ranging from "Media Coverage of Central America" to "Grenada, the Caribbean and Central America" to a report from the Oregon Women's Tour of Nicaragua; and films including "The War at Home," "Attack on the Americans" and "El Salvador: Another Vietnam" will take place during the afternoons

of the conference.

Best of all, this conference is free, although donations will be gratefully accepted. We invite and encourage all students, faculty and community to join us at this educational conference.

Mary Lewis
David Herman
student events coordinators

Arm yourself

In response to the editorial (Emerald, Oct. 28) about the invasion of Grenada, I wish to point out that while a blanket condemnation of violence would not be conducive to analysis, there are a couple of points about which we can be fairly certain and that deserve our condemnation.

The invasion of Grenada was an unprovoked attack on another sovereign state and a violation of the OAS charter. This should be roundly condemned.

It is the United States, not the Soviet Union, that is blatantly trying to overthrow a legitimate government, i.e., the government of Nicaragua, by employing terrorism, sabotage and psychological warfare. It has persisted in these activities in spite of repeated efforts by the Nicaraguan government to negotiate for peace. These actions are a violation of international law and should also be condemned.

Finally, while the invasion of Grenada confused some people at home, it sent a clear message to all countries in the hemisphere that do not follow the economic and ideological line of the Reagan administration. That message is: do not negotiate, but rather arm yourselves for the inevitable invasion, for the United States respects neither national sovereignty nor international treaties, nor will this administration accept a diplomatic solution over a more simplistic military one.

What is viewed as a glorious example of U.S. military superiority over a tiny banana republic, may turn out to be a tremendous diplomatic disaster.

Bruce Bondurant
senior, chemistry

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.

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.

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