

opinion

It's a black comedy in European theater

It's more than a little galling that Pres. Ronald Reagan has the affront to call himself the "Peacemaker" and yet has allowed the Soviets to walk out of the U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva Switzerland with his irrational insistence on deploying the Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe on schedule.

In fairness to Reagan the Pershing II and cruise missile deployment was planned in 1979 under the administration of Pres. Jimmy Carter. Still, for a president who abhors all programs and policies by previous Democratic administrations Reagan has certainly taken Carter's missile deployment to heart. In fact, he's adhering to the letter to this Democratic plan.

Reagan has renewed the arms race and put this country (and perhaps all of Western Europe) balancing before the precipice of nuclear war. The Soviets, matching Reagan's hardline approach, are also on the crumbling edge of the precipice. The Soviets are just as obsessed by this mad game as the Reagan government.

Until the Pershing II and cruise missiles are in Western Europe it's all bluff and bluster. Why must Reagan conduct arms diplomacy as if it were a game of poker? Apparently the limited view of the art of diplomacy is to bluff on every hand and keep the guns on the table. The problem with Reagan's poker diplomacy is that it's a high stakes game with human lives being tossed into the pot. The way the U.S. and Soviets play there will be only one hand — and no winner.

The Reagan administration, in its most recent statements, said it will deploy the missiles no matter what. The missiles are to strengthen NATO forces in Western Europe, but it may have the opposite effect. The people of Western Europe, loudly and in unprecedented masses, are demonstrating against the December deployment. Leaders of NATO countries consider the hundreds of thousands demonstrators an insignificant portion of the population. They're not, look for significant votes against the existing governments (specifically the government of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl) the next time European countries go to the polls. The more sensible countries, seeing its own citizens in near revolt, are having second thoughts over its participation in NATO.

The Soviets have, as expected, countered the U.S.-prompted deployment. The madness is mutual, and not simply the purview of this country. Soviet Pres. Yuri Andropov, announcing the deployment of additional SS-20 missiles in East Germany and other Warsaw Pact nations, said the action was the direct result of the failure of the Geneva arms talks and the deployment of 572 intermediate-range missiles in NATO countries.

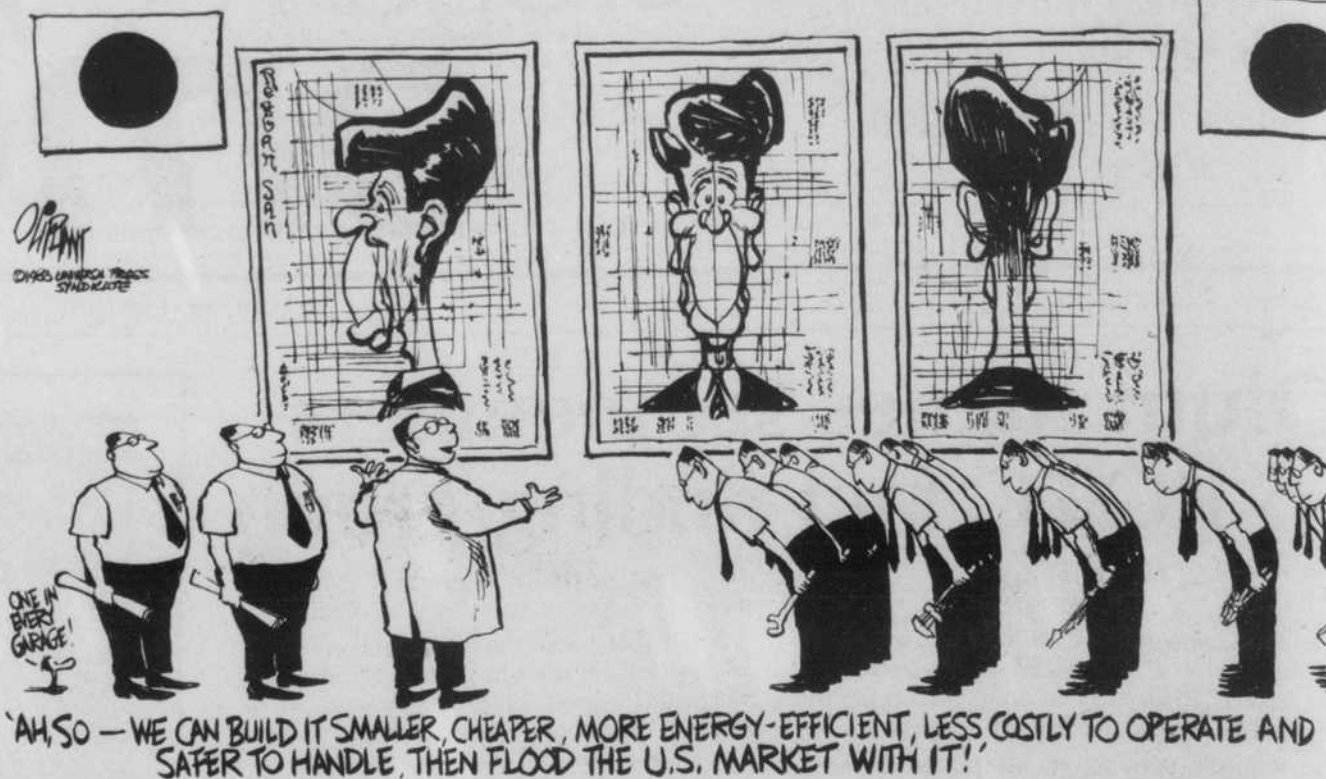
Richard Ovinnikov, Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, while betraying a hint of culpability, accused the U.S. of escalating the arms race. "We all have started on a new spiral of madness, of nuclear race," he said. "The preference of this (U.S.) administration was to start it in the hope that they can prevail over the Soviet Union."

Not everyone in the Reagan administration has the steely eyes, nor icewater blood for this one-hand-to-the-death poker diplomacy. Fred Ikle, undersecretary of defense, said "What worries us is the buildup of theater nuclear forces in Europe. We don't know if they're going to just continue it (missile deployment) or accelerate it."

The question is whether Reagan, in the flowing robes of his self-designated role as the "Peacemaker", can indeed make peace. What became of Reagan's "zero option" plan or the recent and widely touted (and equally mocked) "build-down" plan? Were these just throwaway lines in a script entitled "The Day Before"?

Reagan has said his administration would do "everything we can" to bring the Soviets back to the bargaining table in Geneva. Has he really done everything? Reagan could induce the Soviets to return to the bargaining table if he'd order a postponement of the initial Pershing II deployment in December. The planned deployment is really a plan with more problems than solutions. Andropov has said negotiations could not be resumed until NATO reversed the missile deployment.

A postponement, while not to be confused with a reversal, would show Reagan sincerely seeks to negotiate arms accords with the Soviets. But, if judging by the blustering and betting, the "Peacemaker" plays a warmonger's game.



letters

Pro-life, ERA

Unfortunately, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was brought to the floor of the House of Representatives under a rule that allowed no amendments and limited debate to only 40 minutes. It was hoped that by this device the questions of the ERA's effect on abortion and abortion funding would not have to be addressed. These constraints significantly contributed to the defeat of the ERA.

Under ERA, the courts would be likely to rule that denial of federal and state funding for a female-only "medical procedure" (abortion) is a form of "sex discrimination." If so, the ERA would invalidate the Hyde Amendment and all state restrictions on abortion funding. ERA could also invalidate the few types of pro-life laws which the courts now regard as constitutional, such as "conscience" laws, which protect medical personnel and institutions from being compelled to participate in abortions.

To prevent such disastrous results, Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) proposed adding these words to the text of the ERA: "Provided, that nothing in this article (the ERA) shall be construed to grant or secure any right to abortion or the funding thereof." If this simple amendment had been adopted, the ERA would have no effect (positive or negative) on abortion law.

Prominent pro-abortion, pro-ERA organizations, such as the League of Women Voters and the National Organization for Women, are alarmed by the Sensenbrenner Amendment. Although they are claiming that there is no link between abortion and ERA, they were also applying strong pressure to representatives to vote against the Sensenbrenner Amendment. If there were really no ERA-abortion link, why would

they oppose it?

I feel that an understanding of ERA's abortion link is necessary if we are eventually going to achieve equal rights for all women, including unborn women.

Joe Hegarty
Oregon right to life

Don't ride

Striking Greyhound Corp. workers' resistance to deep wage and benefit cuts deserves the support of the University community.

Greyhound has refused binding arbitration, whereby a neutral third party would determine a fair settlement. In adopting their intransigent bargaining position, the parent company seeks to break the Amalgamated Transit Union which represents drivers, mechanics and bus terminal staff.

Greyhound's assault on its own work force is becoming standard policy among our corporations, who sense weakness in organized labor, in part engineered by Reagan policies which shift wealth from poorer to well-off, from weak to strong. This trend promises an increasing polarization of our society; a richer, smaller elite and burgeoning impoverishment of wage and salary earners.

Your profession may be the next under attack. Support safe, fair bus service. Don't ride Greyhound.

Paul Ferguson
industrial relations

Or what?

Dear Brandon Shepard; Are you a complete dolt, or what?

Don't you realize that student loans have to be paid back, and that students are expected to earn allocated workstudy funds?

Further, the majority of financial aid recipients are responsible individuals who use the opportunities provided by financial aid to further their education. The government of the United States is supposedly in favor of higher education for those in the population who cannot otherwise afford it. For this reason they provide

financial aid to those individuals.

You state that: when one asks a favor of the American people to loan one "free" money, one should be willing to do something in return, including placing oneself on call in case of a national emergency. I believe risking death for one's country is a hell of a big "favor."

Tell you what, next time you apply for a new car loan, or a home-loan we'll have you sign away your life, or perhaps your first born child. We could have you sign away your brain, but obviously that wouldn't do as much good now, would it?

Ellen Menaker
English

Another Friday

Friday night
I watched the news
Ex-Gen. er, Al Haig in Albany
Veterans day breakfast and festivities in the rain.

Yes sir. He likes the patriotism of the town. Yeah.

Saturday late morning
on the way to Portland
I passed through
Albany in the rain
I could just smell
the patriotism as I passed
Wah Chang.

Hey Honey, I looked at my wife
this is where they make zirconium

to
kill, deter, kill, deter, kill, deter
tilt the populations slash people.
In America

we don't eat quiche
we gonna
die without boots on.

Yeah.
Yo Alex. I'm a vet too.

Drug wars.
Germany
77 through 79

Remember? Hell, I got scars.

Hey sir. I tried to fight, waste
and stupidity too
but all I heard was
"Don't make waves, jeopardize
rank."

No one made pancakes for me
on Veterans day.

Greg Brilowski
senior, psychology, art

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.

News and Editorial
Display Advertising and Business
Classified Advertising
Production
Circulation

686-5511
686-3712
686-4343
686-4381
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