

Arms control failure

The recent Reagan-Gromyko meeting in the White House served its purpose well: campaign publicity for Reagan. There was just one problem. Reagan hoped to go into the meeting and come out of it showing that his "get tough" policy with the Soviets has worked. It hasn't.

The only thing Reagan's "get tough" policy has proven so far is how "tough" it is for Reagan to reach any kind of arms control agreement with the Kremlin. During his presidency, he has made repeated nasty verbal attacks against the Russians. He has called them "evil," "godless," and even gone so far as to joke about bombing Russia off the face of the earth.

While such name-calling may be fun among children it is hardly the way for a head of state to act. Name-calling does not achieve arms control.

Reagan has had four years to prove his intent to bring nuclear peace between the United States and the Soviet Union. Instead of serious negotiations toward peace, he has spent his time fighting for increases in nuclear weapons and defense systems such as his now famous "Star Wars" idea.

With that in mind, it comes as no surprise that Reagan's meeting with Gromyko on Friday produced nothing solid toward arms control. Gromyko's request that there be a freeze on the development of space weapons systems was met with a firm "get tough" response: First there must be full-scale negotiations and then maybe the United States will consider the freeze idea.

Reagan says that his new space defense system will enable America to out-distance the Russians in military technology and to close the "window of vulnerability." The Russians, however, disagree. They have stated repeatedly that the Soviet Union will never permit the United States to dominate them with nuclear weapons. They have history to prove this.

Those who voted for Reagan in 1980 because they wanted a president who would get tough with the Soviet Union should be happy. Those who voted for Reagan because they thought he would promote nuclear peace between the two superpowers have a lot to be upset about. The world is not a safer place today than it was four years ago.

Hunting is a dangerous sport for the careless

Once again it has happened. On opening day of deer hunting season in Oregon a hunter was shot and killed. Tom Hogg, a graduate of the University and assistant dean of research at Oregon State University apparently was mistaken for a deer when he was shot Saturday. The three men hunting with Hogg at the time all said they shot in his direction while chasing a deer.

Considering that thousands of hunters take to the woods on opening day of hunting season, the apparent accidental killing of one hunter should not come as a surprise. But it is still a terrible tragedy.

Hunting season is not only a time of fear for the animals that roam Oregon's wilderness areas, it also is a time of fear for those individuals who love the wilds but don't hunt.

All week long before opening day, radio and television are filled with warnings: Don't go out into the woods. Almost everywhere there is the sound of gunfire, and everything that moves becomes a potential target of careless hunters' guns.

Perhaps it is the excitement of killing that makes some hunters careless. But if hunters want the respect that they claim their sport deserves then they must earn it. The three men who thought Tom Hogg was a deer and shot in his direction Saturday should have known never to pull the trigger without being sure of the target. It is a tragic lesson to learn.



letters

Council jive

In reference to the Register-Guard article "City votes to oppose ballot measures" (Sept. 27), I have a few questions for our elected City Council people. Whom do you represent? Don't you think that the people of this city have a responsibility to ourselves, to our children, to our grandchildren, to provide a safe, healthy, environmentally aesthetic community?

Mr. Ball, you say that the public should be actively involved throughout the planning process, but we shouldn't have a veto opportunity at the last instant. Do you mean being involved as in the red ink amounting to \$150,000 more than taxpayers originally agreed to pay in a 1978 election for the construction of the Hult Center and parking garage? (see Register-Guard, 1/15/84).

Is that what you mean? Or do you mean all the people like myself who attended the public hearing concerning the street-widening? We the people who created our government are ultimately responsible, like a parent is for its child. On Monday Jan. 23, 1984, we parents came forward to speak with our child, the City Council. We tried reason, anger, and even begging, but like spoiled children you wouldn't listen.

You fidgeted in your chairs, playing with your pencils and stared off into oblivion as if we weren't even there. As a parent, Mr. Ball, should we have a veto over a non-obedient child?

And you, Mr. Obie, exactly how difficult is it to build in Eugene? It doesn't take a wizard

to follow whose emerald city is being built at the end of the yellow brick road.

Richard Gold
Eugene

Realpolitik

It would appear that endless opinion polls, a general National Enquirer mentality, and a candidate's ability to use the greatest number of "All-American" platitudes per speech will determine the winner of the upcoming election. We, the comatose, media-enthralled public, eat it right up.

When is this country going to look beneath the surface of token phrases and rhetorical imagery? Let's take a look at the excessively used buzzword "patriotism." Does patriotism mean waving a flag, frothing at the mouth, screaming U.S.A.? What needs to be realized is that patriotism, if not rooted in some of the higher ethics of humanity is meaningless or dangerous. Hitler instilled fierce patriotism in the German people.

Now that our "pride" and "Christian morality" are stronger under this administration, let's look at the actions that are behind these refreshing compliments to ourselves.

We are now proudly trying to destroy the government of the Nicaraguan people. The last U.S.-installed puppet of that country murdered 50,000 of his own people. Other countries benefitting from our "crusades for democracy" are El Salvador (45,000 civilians murdered) and Guatemala (same fate). Continuing on the lines of "Christian" leadership ("Assistant secretary of... has pledged continued support of the Ugandan president despite allegations of mass murder and torture... 200,000 civilians massacred"), is this the standing-tall spirit everyone's been cheering about?

As your children sit in their schoolrooms will you be voting for a man who makes one-liners

about bombing the Soviet Union? As a Christian, I won't be jumping on any Moral Majority bandwagon. Beneath the image I see actions that are ludicrous and insane.

Gerry Rempel
Eugene

Bad service

Surely the city of Eugene and its merchants earned enough loot from the Eugene Celebration to fund taxi service for the many bus riders, including students, who became stranded for hours between buses as a result of the disrupted transportation system.

Cynthia Wooten and other organizers responsible for setting up the 2nd Annual Eugene Celebration are particularly insensitive. The events of the Celebration made hash out of the bus service scheduling — an unhappy and uncalled for repeat of the 1st Eugene Celebration.

It may come as a surprise to these planners that there are people in Eugene that are totally dependent on the LTD bus service to meet critical and important appointments even on weekends. Not everyone is able to drop whatever they are doing just to celebrate your promotional events.

Comments by angry bus riders and upset, off-schedule bus drivers indicate that these kinds of disruptions and resultant strandings do nothing toward promoting the stable image of Eugene you wish to project. In many cases, instead of scoring with the public, these events prove to be infuriating.

The least that could be done during the Eugene Celebration is to provide transportation alternatives to the LTD bus service for people dependent upon public transportation. I speak for many Eugeneans and visitors in saying thanks for a ruined weekend.

Kay Wells
Eugene

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