

# Reagan increases fear of nuclear war

In 1980, within weeks of taking office, President Ronald Reagan told the American people that the Soviet Union had reached a level of nuclear superiority over the United States. This, he said, created a serious "window of vulnerability" which, if left alone, could leave the Soviets with a clear military advantage over the "free world."

To counter this threat, Reagan asked the American people to support a renewed military build-up. Budget increases followed in almost all areas of nuclear weapons development. The MX Missile, the Trident Submarine, the B1 Bomber, the Cruise Missile and the Pershing 2 all went into full-scale production.

In 1981, Defense Minister Casper Weinberger announced that it would be possible for the United States to fight and win a "limited nuclear war." This was followed with administration assurances that if Americans were prepared, the country could survive a nuclear attack and emerge both politically stable and militarily strong.

This is the famous "with enough shovels" idea. Americans were told that by digging a pit in the ground and covering it with dirt, a shelter could be made to offer protection against radioactive fallout.

In 1983 the Reagan administration went ahead with plans to station new Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe. The Soviets, protesting what they called a new escalation of the arms race, broke off arms control negotiations with the United States.

Recently, Reagan put the Soviet Union on a partial military alert when he jokingly said that he had outlawed the Soviet Union forever and would start bombing Russia immediately. At the same time, he continues to tell Americans that the world is a safer place today than it was four years ago, thanks to his administration.

Is the world really a safer place since Reagan took office? Can Americans feel at ease now that Reagan says the problem of nuclear war is under control? The answer is no.

A look at the United States today doesn't show signs of peace, but rather signs of fear and military escalation. During the last four years, paramilitary groups have been on the increase across the country. They are called Survivalists, and can be found in almost every state from New Jersey to California.

The aim of these groups is to be prepared for a nuclear war and to be able to survive it by stockpiling weapons and other supplies to be used during the period of social chaos that they believe will follow a nuclear attack.

Brown University students also have a plan which originates from a fear of impending nuclear war. The students there passed a referendum last week for the school health center to stock cyanide pills. Should there be a nuclear war, Brown University students have opted for mass suicide.

Child psychologists have noticed a growth in fear of nuclear war, too. Last year parents and teachers throughout the country began reporting that increasing numbers of young children were asking more questions about the chances of nuclear war. Counseling organizations have responded by creating special programs on how to deal with nuclear fear in children.

Reagan says the world is a safer place today due to his administration's policies. Yet at the same time, massive peace demonstrations in West Germany, Italy, France, England, and the Netherlands continue to take place, protesting America's recent military developments in Western Europe.

On Saturday the Soviet Union announced that it is putting new long-range cruise missiles in strategic bombers and submarines to match the recent attempt by the United States to gain nuclear superiority over the Soviets. A new round of the arms race is now dangerously gaining momentum.

In the last four years, the Reagan administration has sent a clear message to the world. But it is not a message of peace. It is a message of nuclear confrontation and proliferation. The next time Reagan says that bombing of the Soviet Union will begin in five minutes, he may not be joking. Nuclear war will then cease to be a fear and instead become a reality.



## letters

### Cross-examined

I wonder if Mr. McGuire would have a different opinion towards the Democrats supporting the registration of prison convicts to vote if he were a victim of rape or if he had a child molested by some creep. I wonder how many of you agree with his statement, "It really isn't necessary, for example, to choose between the victim and the criminal" (ODE Oct. 10).

Is this the prevailing attitude of the liberals in the Democratic Party? Is Mondale so desperate for votes that he doesn't mind accepting the vote of the lowest scums in our country?

I doubt if any victim of rape or other violent acts is so sympathetic to the criminal element. The next time the Democrats talk about the so-called "sleaze factor" I urge all victims and potential victims of crime (that could include all of us) to remember the Democrats support registering convicts to vote. The Democrats getting down on Raymond Donovan is like Charles Manson condemning an alleged shoplifter.

Michael Cross  
History-Political Science

### Stop the heat!

Let's quit dreaming Pres. Olum. Although your program of Preventive Learning by leaving the thermostat at 680 degrees Celsius in the library appeals to me, the rest of the kids would rather study abroad at the sun. Hell, why don't we just turn the place into a huge fruit dehydrating factory!

I'm sitting in the library right now. I think I'm hallucinating. Is that a drinking fountain atop that student's head? This could start a riot, because I swear, that looks like fresh spring water. This could lead to violence, lawsuits, University disgrace, or the firing of the University president.

So, my suggestion? We operate from the ceiling. Like an upside down trolley car system. Not with people on the ceiling, but pop-down oxygen masks, similar to the airlines. This system would require an automated-trigger system: When the library reaches that average temperature of 500 degrees Celsius, pop, the masks drop down. Incidentally, we need coolant for the oxygen tanks.

Implementing this idea will: Save 300,000 gallons an hour of campus drinking fountains, provide an essential life support system, and propel the University to the top of the high-tech library respiration.

Jay Dinneen  
Film

### Reactionaries

Having seen a few campuses in the past decades I notice, like others, a change in mood. Yesterday the arena of an epic struggle for social justice and human rights, today's campuses seem strongly influenced by partisans of Reagan. The latter apparently are all for re-articulating the ancient proverb: "Homo homine lupus

est" (Man is a wolf to his fellow man).

Sometimes the Emerald's "Letters to the Editor" are so filled with litanies of reaction and regression that reading becomes a heavy Cross to bear. On balance, however, it seems as if this campus were more reaction-resistant than others.

Looking at the young, I am reminded of Clemenceau's famous saying: "A young man of 20 who isn't a socialist has no heart; a man of 40 who still is one has no brains." I wonder whether the youthful Reagan followers at least have brains. They seem unable to make the logical connection between the militarism assiduously promoted by Reagan's puppet masters and the futility of their intense search for the "good life."

Of course, these students merely confuse militarism with patriotism. The young of all nations used to cultivate an innocent patriotism which is very different from that cynical patriotism sponsored by those in power, and called the last refuge of scoundrels by Samuel Johnson. Elsewhere, World War II destroyed this innocence.

Last but not least, these reactionary students having been raised on TV have no ability to distinguish between celluloid and genuine heroes.

Thus, all in all, one should have more compassion than censure for them.

Dr. A.E. Brettauer  
Retired History Professor

## 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, Oregon, 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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