

editorial

Reagan's priority — building more bombs

The budget recommendations sent by President Ronald Reagan to Congress on Monday, if passed, will continue to take this nation down the road of social despair and increased militarism. Framed in the ever-handy talk of a growing Soviet military threat and American vital interests, Reagan has sent forth a budget that ignores the national deficit, sky-rockets military spending, attacks social programs, and leaves the American people on their own to grapple with growing financial problems in an unstable economy.

Small-scale farmers are being told to tighten their belts and face up to foreclosures. Students are being told that despite the rising costs of education, they must take cuts in financial aid. Medicare patients are being left with rising hospital bills and less assistance. Rural development programs in poverty-stricken areas like Appalachia are on their way out. The list goes on.

Translated to the grassroots level, the recommended budget cuts mean a loss of the equivalent of 4,800 police officers and 5,500 teachers in New York. In the Northwest, it means the termination of Amtrak passenger service. Nationwide, it means that approximately 500,000 students will be cut out of the Guaranteed Student Loan program and 150,000 will lose eligibility to receive Pell Grants.

Where is all the money from these budget cuts going? It's going to 48 more MX missiles, 48 more nuclear-tipped B-1 bombers, another Trident missile submarine, 13 new navy ships, 840 new M-1 tanks, 716 Bradley fighting vehicles, 144 Apache attack helicopters, and, along with other military "necessities," it's going into continued research and development of new weapons systems, including the President's "star wars" plan. In short, Reagan has once again asked Congress to appropriate money for the largest military build-up in peace-time history (a record defense budget of \$313.7 billion), while telling the American people to accept many of the largest cuts ever made (excepting Reagan's 1980 budget) in social improvement programs.

As Sen. Mark Hatfield rightly put it on Monday, Reagan has submitted a "fantasy budget in a land of never-ending deficits." But unlike a fantasy, if Congress grants most of Reagan's requests, then America will be led down a road of economic and military chaos, as our nation enters military conflicts abroad and experiences social turmoil at home.

Parking lot idea offers only a partial solution

The news that the Alder Street tennis courts will soon be the site of a new University parking lot brings mixed feelings. But it should not be greeted with total despair. Parking has been a chronic problem at the University, and the compromise to turn the tennis courts into a parking lot during the school year and then return them back to tennis courts during the summer is not the worst idea that has been presented. Still, the plan is at best a partial solution that will only work if the University keeps its part of the deal by making sure that the tennis courts are properly prepared for summer use. While not solving the parking problem entirely, if done carefully and with guaranteed student access to the new parking site, then it can help. What concerns us more is the future plan to create a two-story parking garage in the same place with a tennis court on top. Such a building and the added traffic it would bring would make this scenic part of Alder Street less attractive and possibly more dangerous to bicycles.



letters

Not right

How effective is the political cartoon in its parody of vigilantism? Let's look past Doonesbury and Bloom County and see the results of this hate. It's not funny. Last week Darrel Cabey, 19, who has been in a coma for three weeks, was operated on. Doctors removed part of his ribs to drain infected pus from his lungs. He is partially paralyzed, has brain damage, and breathes with the aid of a respirator. He is near death. I realize Doonesbury and Bloom County are trying to make us see how stupid this type of violence is, yet something is not right. I laugh... but I don't feel right. Would we use this type of media vehicle for the starving masses in Africa? I have heard those who say he got what he deserved, and I wonder just where their heads would be at if they grew up in a New York ghetto.

I realize that this is no excuse, but it must be taken into consideration. The bottom line is that only justifiable force may be used to stop a crime. Bernhard Goetz's act was far from justifiable; Darrel Cabey was shot in the back as he tried to flee. If Goetz is allowed to get away with this, it will be a signal to all the crazies who have somehow been keeping it together that now they can act out their fantasies.

As for the cartoons, I don't know the answer. To me they are more entertainment than a consciousness raiser. Those that see the horror of this act already realize it, and those that haven't

will only laugh with a deeper satisfaction at this sad event.

Danny Suire
History

Wrong meaning

I feel compelled to make a small but important correction in Lori Steinhauer's article "Male issues explored" (ODE, Jan. 21). During the Men and Masculinity Conference, I attended a workshop in which many women expressed feelings of frustration and anger about their relationships with men. There seemed to be a consensus among these women that men were primarily motivated by sexual desires, rather than an interest in developing intimate friendships. As a parallel, Ms. Steinhauer also reported that according to me "many of the men feel women are primarily after a free dinner or a free night on the town."

Never having been interviewed before, I find it very interesting how two independently stated but related thoughts can be misunderstood and combined to convey the wrong meaning. I doubt that many men feel that women are strictly out for a "free lunch." What I said was that many of the men at the workshop expressed strong feelings of resentment that women often automatically expected men to pay for dinners and dates. In fact, one man complained that over a period of several years and perhaps hundreds of dates, none of the women had ever offered to pay their own way.

It seems to me that what is important to our psycho-emotional survival in the '80's, '90's, etc. is the development of an increasing sense of equality, understanding, and trust between men and women. To reach this goal we need to encourage attitudes and behaviors that are indicative of cooperation and mutual respect.

Steven Hymen, Ph.D
Eugene

Wrong men

In her letter (ODE, Jan. 28), Cheri Snell points out that men are as much to blame for abortion as women. Her point is well taken, although I think that she is directing her fire at the wrong men.

Male pro-lifers are not advocates of the immoral and irresponsible Playboy sexual philosophy — "Sex, go for it!" — a philosophy which has undoubtedly contributed heavily to this nation's explosion of unwanted pregnancies. On the contrary, it is the male purveyors of the Playboy mentality who are probably the most unabashed supporters of abortion on demand, for two reasons.

First, with legalized abortion available as a backup to conception control, more women are less inhibited about engaging in promiscuous sexual activity. Thus, men who are interested in making sexual conquests now have a larger pool of "easy" women to choose from.

Second, legalized abortion has effectively removed any need for men to be responsible about sex. Women, of course, have always borne the greater risks when engaging in sex. However, our society has imposed at least some sanctions (i.e. shotgun weddings, child support payments, etc.) on the sexually irresponsible male.

Now, however, men may copulate to their heart's content; and if they get their partners pregnant, so what? "She can always have an abortion." Thus, men who, in the process of recklessly fulfilling their own lusts, get a woman pregnant and then encourage her to have an abortion have made themselves willing accomplices to a heinous crime.

Tom Visoky
Journalism

letters policy

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed and 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 and style.

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