

# Arms control policy doesn't make sense

Making sense out of President Ronald Reagan's nuclear arms control policy is becoming more and more difficult. This is especially evident in regards to the recent continuation of American-Soviet arms control negotiations in Geneva.

Reagan has spent a lot of time lately trying to convince the American people that arms control reductions can only come about by embarking on an arms control build-up. This illogic is demonstrated by the president's emphasis on funding the development of the MX missile as a way to convince the Soviets that the United States is serious about nuclear arms reductions.

Other contradictions within the Reagan approach to arms control in Geneva are even more disturbing. For example, Reagan has insisted on developing both the MX missile and his Strategic Defense Initiative ("Star Wars"). The reason for pushing the MX, according to the State Department, is to persuade the Soviets to make deep cuts in their heavy land-based missiles, which represent the bulk of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. At the same time, the administration has pushed ahead with the Star Wars proposal. Most arms experts, including Brent Scowcroft of the Reagan-appointed Scowcroft Commission, agree that the Star Wars plan will cause the Soviets to build more land-based missiles in an effort to overcome a missile defense system.

What this adds up to is that the Reagan administration is following an arms control policy that doesn't make sense. On the one hand, Reagan claims that deploying the MX will force the Soviets to make reductions in their land-based missiles. On the other hand, Reagan's own arms experts agree that the Star Wars proposal is likely to cause the Soviets to build more land-based missiles. What will be the outcome of this contradictory arms control policy? No real arms control at all.

Considering the above, it becomes clear why the Soviets are frustrated with the Reagan approach to arms control in Geneva. The United States seems to want it both ways. It wants arms control and nuclear superiority. By launching a massive nuclear build-up in the name of national defense, the Reagan administration seeks to outdistance the Soviets in weapons technology while also wreaking havoc on the Soviet economy by forcing them to engage in a continuation of an ever-costly arms race. In the process, however, the administration has also wreaked havoc on the U.S. economy. This destructive cycle will continue as long as the goal of achieving arms control remains secondary to visions of a winnable nuclear war.

## Only a few days to go before spring vacation

Here we are. The deadline for term papers and the pressure of final exams is upon us. But hang in there! Relief is in sight. In just a few more days, spring vacation starts, and if the weather continues on its current trend, then spring break 1985 will be a glorious one indeed.

For those of you who aren't quite sure how to spend your vacation, here are a few ideas: a day or two at the coast is a great way to get a change of scenery from Eugene; a visit to the Breitenbush Hot Springs is a wonderful way to unwind; a bike-picnic trip to Hinman Vineyards outside of Eugene is a nice way to combine sightseeing with wine-tasting; and a visit to the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Gardens can make for a lovely afternoon now that these colorful flowers are beginning to bloom. Whatever you choose to do, the Emerald staff wishes all of its readers a relaxing and most enjoyable spring vacation.



"It won't be easy to install a human heart in an artificial body."

## letters

### Liberal cliché

Debra Liebowitz may not be a visionary, but her all-too-brief letter reflects liberal thought about what a conservative newspaper should be. A conservative newspaper should exude "quality," unlike the Commentator, Liebowitz suggests. Although she "wholeheartedly" supports funding opposing political opinions, the Commentator fails the "quality" litmus test, she explains.

By any fair definition, the Commentator is a quality publication. It has received awards for journalistic excellence from non-ideological groups like the Society of Professional Journalists and the Society of Collegiate Journalists.

But what Liebowitz embodies is not a fairness doctrine but a liberal cliché. As former radical Irving Kristol has written, the liberals' ideal conservative should "have a nebulous but definitely genteel political dimension, since it is likely that we shall always, at intervals, need a brief interregnum of conservative government whose function it is to consolidate and ratify liberal reforms. The ideal conservative president... would be a Dwight Eisenhower who read Lionel Trilling instead of paperback

Westerns, who listened to chamber music instead of playing golf — but who would be, in all other respects, as inert as the real President Eisenhower..."

But having a paper like the Commentator, which expresses its opinions with force and verve in a manner much like The New Republic, is unacceptable because it might affect campus policy or discussion. And as Kristol concludes, "The very possibility of such a conservatism is a specter that haunts the liberal imagination and can propel it into frenzies of exorcism."

Richard Burr  
Former Editor  
Oregon Commentator

### Ridiculous

The "anti-apartheid" boycott of the film "The Gods Must Be Crazy" is among the most ridiculous political statements I have heard. Although I won't be seeing the movie until after finals, when I do I will expect, from information garnered from reviews, ads, and acquaintances who have seen it, to see an informed, sensitive, and empathetic portrayal of the !Kung people in encounters with cultures other than their own. (I hope that's right, the colonialist appellation "Bushman" to describe men, women, and children makes my liberal knees jerk uncontrollably). Nothing I have heard leads me to believe that the making of this film supported, encouraged, or even ignored the issue of apartheid.

The boycotters' position is that the movie, by having been made by a South African company, economically strengthens apartheid. Do they similarly object to the University library stocking South African literature, such as Paton's "Cry, The Beloved Country"? By their argument it would be unethical to send money to Bishop Tutu himself, lest it be used to buy South African products like food or shelter materials. The problem in South Africa is not that wealth exists there, but rather that it is distributed so in-

equitably. And if this boycott were wildly and immediately successful and did negatively impact the South African economy, whose shoulders would bear the load? The entrenched and powerful minority supporters of apartheid? Guess again, bunkie.

Laurie Rubin  
Science

### Great friend

Last Thursday many of us here at the University lost a great friend. I think I can speak for everyone who knew Mic Russell in saying that he will be missed greatly.

Mic was the epitome of what a friend should be. Mic was extremely generous—and always willing to help a friend in need. Mic believed in living life to the fullest. That's exactly what he did during his twenty-year stay in this life. Tragically, Mic left us while participating in his favorite activity, skiing. Whether it be skiing or shooting hoops, Mic lived life with an exuberance that will leave a lasting impression on all who knew him. I know I am not the only one who wishes he were more like Mic. I speak for all who loved Mic in expressing my deepest sympathies for his mother Rose during this trying time. Painful as it may be, I hope that all of us who loved Mic can learn something valuable from him. I hope that all who knew Mic will keep him in their thoughts and prayers. Hang in there, Mic! We love you!

Shawn Paque

### 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 or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Oregon Daily

## emerald

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