

# Editorial

## 'Civil defense' plan new Reagan sham

In the event of nuclear war, fear not. Government officials and documents pertaining to private property ownership will be well protected. At least that is the scenario envisioned by the latest civil defense plan of the Reagan administration.

Under the \$1.5 billion proposal by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 600 bomb shelters would be built between 1988 and 1992. A total of 3,400 shelters would ultimately be constructed to house local government officials during the "trans-attack period" — the thermonuclear exchange.

The rationale behind the plan, according to the associate director of FEMA, is to ensure "a viable democratic society after a nuclear attack." To help "retain and demonstrate ownership" of surviving property, land records would be housed in the shelters as well.

And what of the general public? In the Reagan tradition of diminished government responsibility, citizens would be called on to "assume greater responsibility for their survival protection."

If this sounds suspiciously familiar, it is. In 1982, the administration tried to resurrect long discounted civil defense plans. Using shovels, citizens would dig holes in the ground, cover them with a couple of doors and place three feet of dirt on top.

For the millions expected to flee cities to the countryside, this would supposedly provide adequate fallout shelter.

Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Thomas K. Jones enunciated this fantasy best: "If there are enough shovels to go around, everybody's going to make it. It's the dirt that does it."

Such policies have one purpose: to provide a false sense of security and persuade the public to accept the notion of fighting and winning nuclear war.

Indeed, the thesis of waging a limited nuclear war has been refined during the Reagan administration, which believes such a conflict can be won.

In August 1982 the Los Angeles Times reported that for the first time, according to National Security Decision Document 13, it was official U.S. policy to prevail in a protracted nuclear war. This policy, adopted by the National Security Council in 1981, was incorporated into a five-year "Defense Guidance" plan, approved by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Included in the document was the proposition that in the event of nuclear hostilities "United States nuclear capabilities must prevail even under the condition of a prolonged war." Also, the United States "must prevail and be able to force the Soviet Union to seek earliest termination of hostilities on terms favorable to the United States."

While this administration's nuclear war fighting policies may differ slightly from the past, its rhetoric highlights the dangers of U.S. strategic doctrine.

Despite overwhelming public opposition to the idea of nuclear war, the administration plans for such a scenario. In the face of scientific evidence that nuclear war will destroy most, if not all, life on the planet, elaborate nuclear war games are devised.

Despite near unanimous rejection of civil-defense plans for nuclear attack, a revised plan to ensure the survival of "democratic society" is now in the making.

The latest plan for civil defense will insure only that in the aftermath of nuclear war, government officials will govern each other. Despite the delusions of the administration, they will be the only survivors.



## Letters

### Hatred and fear

Regarding Michael Cross' letter of May 6.

Michael says he "couldn't care less if some might accuse me of being mean or insensitive," based on his narrow-minded Nazi-like stand against homosexuality and AIDS. Well Michael, I'm not going to call you mean because my terms for people like you are such that no paper would ever print them.

It is people like you (and Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Pol Pot, Marcos, Duvalier, ad nauseam) who create the animosity and paranoia that is so instrumental in sending others to war and certain death to defend your bigoted and hateful beliefs. What ever happened to charity, understanding and love?

Obviously, you don't possess these qualities that are beneficial to all American people. So please do the world a favor (both homo and heterosexual) and run, don't walk, to the nearest cliff and fling yourself off. Then and only then will you fulfill your obligation to the American Constitution by promoting the health and welfare of all! (We do not want any of those Nazi-like genes returning to the American people.)

Unfortunately people like you lack the true courage to do anything but hide behind a pen

or desk, and dictate hatred and fear. I hope the divine finds it within its heart to forgive people like you, but I'd rather believe that Dante was right in assigning a special place in hell for you and those like you.

Robert Botta  
Graduate, History

### Unconscionable

I would like to call attention to the haphazard way in which University Security and the Traffic Appeals Department operate.

I was cited last term for parking my bicycle on the landscaping outside Allen Hall. I petitioned the citation on the grounds that: a) there was inadequate parking around Allen Hall, and; b) what parking was available was overgrown with shrubbery to the extent that only three or four slots were usable. My petition was denied. I appealed that finding, and my appeal was also denied.

However, it seems much more than coincidental that the same day I received my second petition denial, an additional bike rack was placed outside Allen Hall. Two weeks before, the overgrown shrubbery had been removed.

It's obvious the Traffic Appeals Department *did* find my objections valid and moved to take care of the problem. Subsequently, I find it unconscionable that they refuse to improve my petition.

Marti Gerdes  
GTF, Journalism

### Act your age

I've been on campus for three years and often read the letters printed in the Emerald. Some are amusing, some are interesting, others are educational. Yet a new breed like any other has evolved lately, one of complete and utter absurdity. I'm speaking specifically of those letters written by, what was his name? Butch, Skippy, no, it was Blake.

Now, it is totally against my normal rational judgement to give attention to a child throwing a tantrum. However, when that child's tantrum turns into sheer destructive intentions that are printed in a publication for thousands to see, it must be brought into further light.

Blake, didn't your mother ever teach you that this world is full of people that subscribe to different points of view? Whether you are a frat-rat greekie, an SPA herbal, a spineless democrat or a Nazi-Reaganite, most of us co-exist without harmful intentions, Blake. Why the hell can't you?

Can you be so insecure as to constantly put others down to boost yourself? Well, if so, you've failed miserably. In a recent letter you claimed it would be your final one, but I doubt you would pass up an opportunity to thrust yourself into the spotlight again, now that you have succeeded in gaining more attention. Let me try to put things in a way that you may be able to understand.

Blake, act your age and not your shoe size.

Scott Bateman  
Journalism

## 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

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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Display Advertising and Business: 686-5511  
Classified Advertising: 686-3712  
Production: 686-4343  
Circulation: 686-4381  
686-5511