

Editorial

Reagan's SDI stand cripples peace talks

President Reagan was worried about selling out the Strategic Defense Initiative, his space-based missile defense proposal, but instead he has sold out a historic disarmament agreement.

The Soviets took the initiative, proposing arms reductions far below U.S. proposals, including the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and an over 80 percent reduction of medium-range missiles in Asia. Most stunning was Reagan's proposal, and Gorbachev's acceptance, of eliminating all ballistic missiles over the next ten years.

The talks, however, came to a standstill on the central issue of SDI. Gorbachev would not budge from restricting SDI research to the laboratory for the next ten years, saying that with ballistic missiles eliminated, there was no need for SDI.

Reagan's cabinet has been split on the question of whether to give up SDI for the sake of arms reductions. In Iceland, however, the president made clear his decision to deploy SDI in ten years.

Reagan will now begin to pay dearly for this decision; the press and Congress undoubtedly will crucify him for selling out this historic arms-control agreement.

Reagan, in his speech yesterday, made clear his commitment to SDI, and he seems to be preparing for a political battle at home in its defense.

Such a battle over SDI would benefit no one. SDI is clearly the Soviet's primary concern, and the president will have no luck in securing arms reductions as long as he sticks with SDI.

Furthermore, SDI is simply a means to the end that the reductions agreement achieves. SDI conceivably is only important in a world threatened by nuclear missiles; it is not in itself more important than the elimination of nuclear missiles.

Gorbachev has said his proposals would not be withdrawn, and that he will "Let America think." We hope Reagan thinks, and comes to the conclusion that arms reductions are more valuable to our future than SDI.

Measure 8 retains choice of how phone calls billed

Most phones are billed at a flat rate. Some are billed as local-measured service, the way long-distance calls are, on the basis of how far away the person being called is and how long the phone call takes.

Ballot Measure 8 would prevent the Public Utility Commissioner from making local-measured service mandatory, and retain people's choice of how their phone calls should be billed, a very desirable end.

The commissioner tried to establish mandatory local-measured services for businesses in 1983, but legislative action blocked that move with a one-year ban. The commissioner has since reversed that decision, due to political opposition, and has said he is not considering reinstating mandatory local-measured service.

However, Pacific Northwest Bell has been considering mandatory local-measured service for years, first for businesses, then for private users; Measure 8 would end debate on the matter.

Local-measured service is good for some phone users who do not use their phones often. However, it is disastrous for other users, such as travel agents, whose businesses make extensive use of the phone calls.

It is also disastrous for some who cannot afford it, such as handicapped people, who are unable to get around easily and thus use their phones extensively. Hospitals, schools, churches and charities would also be hard hit by local-measured billing.

Most of the costs of telephone service are fixed, and only increase when general usage of the telephone system increases. Local-measured service, which is similar to paying for gas or electricity, is not appropriate because telephone service does not get "used up."

Some telephone users benefit from local-measured service, and currently have the option of having it. Making this type of billing mandatory, however, severely hurts some people.

Measure 8 would protect people's choices of how their phones are billed and allow telephone users to use the billing system that suits them best.

Mel Ludwick
The Times-Picayune
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Letters

Testing fair

In response to your editorial "Drug-testing program not fair..." (Oct. 6) I think you made several assumptions about the testing that are not true.

First, the testing is not in violation of an athlete's right to privacy.

Participating in a varsity sport is not a right, it's a privilege. As such, the University does not need specific permission to test athletes; it can set any standards it feels necessary to ensure the quality of its program. Athletes do not need to be tested if they do not wish to compete. An analogy would be someone buying a car — he doesn't have to pay the money if he doesn't want to buy it.

Second, I don't feel the University's decision to test all athletes for drugs is a sign that it "holds all athletes in suspicion." On the contrary, I think that testing athletes removes suspicion. When an athlete is screened for drug use people will not assume he uses drugs, they will simply think he is an athlete and all athletes are tested.

Finally, as an athlete on the cross-country team I don't feel I'm unfairly treated by being tested. I think that the testing will make for fairer competition, and will ensure that the reputation of student-athletes is maintained at a high level. In-

deed, at a higher level, for although most athletes don't use drugs, many people feel that they do. That bad reputation is shared by all athletes by association. Now people will know that athletes are drug-free, and they will be right.

Carleton B. Jones
Philosophy

A guide

I'm writing this letter as a sort of guide for other English students who are unfortunate enough to have to deal with Mike Stamm, the extremely abusive secretary in the English office.

First, keep in mind that Mr. Stamm must be suffering from real unhappiness and that his abusive behavior toward those he considers his underlings is only a manifestation of such.

Second, try not to be intimidated by him. Complain. Complain again. I certainly am.

Third, and perhaps most important, avoid dealing with him as much as possible. If that is not possible, disengage from him with as few words as possible. He will abuse and intimidate you, but only if you let him.

I am quite sure the result of this letter will be a tirade of insults from Mr. Stamm. That's okay. This is a letter I should have written years ago.

Philip Mitchell
English

Mammogram

Colette Doudin's article on mammography in the ODE, Oct. 10, is a good summary of the value of modern low-dose mammography. The risks are indeed outweighed several-thousand fold by the benefits of early cancer detection through modern mammography, leading to a high cure rate of this common and often fatal disease.

Young women (below the ages of 30 to 40) have a low incidence of breast cancer and the high tissue density makes detection of early cancer difficult. After the ages of 35-40, a baseline mammogram is recommended. Follow-up studies in one- or two-year intervals between the ages 40 and 49 should follow and yearly mammograms are recommended after age 50. These are the recommendations by the American Cancer Society and other medical professional organizations.

Eugene is well served by several facilities performing modern low-dose mammography at a high professional level of skill.

Mrs. Doudin failed to mention the services available at Radiology Associates and the Radiology Department of The Eugene Clinic.

Hans U. Tschersich, M.D.
Radiologist

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