

Increase in SDI testing is de-stablizing move

President Reagan's proposal for unlimited testing of the "Star Wars" defense system is a grave mistake. It not only will damage relations with the Soviet Union, it will bring the U.S. closer to a nuclear war.

On Monday Reagan proposed to advance the pattern of tests currently being used for Star Wars. Under the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972, no tests or deployment of new ABM systems can occur. This proposal jeopardizes the treaty and moves the arms race to a new level.

The idea of a third generation of nuclear weapons was prompted by the development of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). It moves the United States away from the concept of mutually assured destruction (MAD) and places us in an offensive position. It promotes overconfidence: the feeling that 'we don't have to worry about a Soviet attack because we'll be able to stop it.'

This feeling of superiority may sound comforting, but it actually brings us closer to a nuclear war — instead of protecting us from one. Reagan is so sure of his SDI system that he refuses to negotiate it with the Soviet Union. He has promised to give the system to the Soviets as soon as it has been developed fully. But Gorbachev's fears that this won't happen are justified.

All talks between the two countries have come to a halt because of SDI. At the Reykjavik summit meeting last October Reagan and Gorbachev agreed to reductions in land and sea-based missiles and intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as removing weapons in Europe and Asia. However, disagreements over SDI halted the signing of a formal agreement to these terms.

Gorbachev left the summit meeting saying no agreement would be reached in the future unless SDI were included. The United States gave up an important opportunity for improved relations with the Soviet Union. According to Matthew Bunn of the Arms Control Association, "We should have snapped them (the proposals) up because it would have meant a major increase in U.S. national security." Unfortunately Reagan's single-minded desires destroyed any chance of a peaceful agreement with the Soviets in the near future.

Pravda has called SDI "a destructive mine under the entire process of arms limitation and reduction..." This is a very accurate assessment of the program. In 1985 the Soviet Union declared a unilateral moratorium on underground nuclear testing. The moratorium stemmed from a test ban treaty banning all nuclear testing, existing since Reagan took office. The treaty has not been signed simply because it would prevent any further testing and development of Star Wars.

It is obvious the Soviets are willing to cooperate with the United States and limit nuclear weapons. The comprehensive test ban is the only viable way this can be achieved. The ban would prevent new, third-generation weapons from being developed and force us to rely on the weapons we already have. The concept of mutually-assured destruction has worked in the past.

With a ban, tensions between the two countries would decrease. The fear of bigger and better weapons being developed would be eliminated.

Reagan has taken Star Wars too far. If he really wants to promote relations with the Soviets, then he would agree to a test ban or weapons limitation. But he has not. Instead he is providing the United States with a system for nuclear war.



Letters

Einstein

Brian Frary's letter (ODE, Feb. 5) reminds one that many people misquote Einstein, attempting to identify him with their religious cause.

Einstein's religion was based on the awe and wonder of cosmic discoveries and understanding, and Jewish philosopher Spinoza was his concept of "God" (Nature). Einstein wrote in 1929, "...knowing why Nature is thus and not otherwise. Here lies the highest satisfaction of a scientific person... that is, as it were, the religious basis of scientific effort."

He had little regard for clergy who "had become interested in the accumulation and preservation of political and economic power, and they maintained their sway over the masses through a combination of superstitions, fear and 'divinely sanctioned' dogma." "Churches are and have always been greedy for power," he wrote, "and worked in company with other powerful political groups, mostly groups with reactionary tendencies, to keep people in ignorance and to exploit them..." Reference: *Einstein in America* by Jamie Sayen (Crown, 1985), Chapter 10.

Einstein believed religions based on anthropomorphic, scriptural "God" failed to lead humankind through knowledge and cooperation to a world of justice, morality, brotherhood and peace.

Students should remember the purpose of their education is to develop independent skills in thinking and decision-making. Prudence suggests they test the merit and veracity of beliefs that may need re-evaluation. The University provides scholars and experts ready to help, plus important library resources. The opportunity will never be more favorable. Consider: Pastors have always herded sheep for their fleece, as sacrificial offerings, and for the wealth (power) they represented.

Bert Tryba
Eugene

Fiction

Creative journalism reached a new high with the printing of a letter to the editor bearing my name (ODE, Feb. 11). While I did write a letter to the editor outlining my adventures with the ASUO regarding legal services, the published version of that letter was altered.

I did not write that Steve Nelson "insisted an ASUO legal representative on campus created a conflict of interest..." Mr. Nelson did not say this. Moreover, I was never told by anyone at the ASUO that a legal services booklet would be provided "in exchange for a student fee."

I appreciate the need for cor-

rective and space editing by the Emerald, but I object to the placement of fiction in my letters.

Scott Elliott
Law

Fishy

Mr. Hytrek's observations deserve some comment (ODE, Feb. 9). "Fisheries management is not an exact science." True.

"All sides must cooperate if we want to preserve the severely depleted salmon runs in our present society." A commendable conclusion.

Expediently, the press and media coverage leave out the commercial ocean fisheries. Whose side?

In all forms of entity disagreement, truth is the first sacrifice.... Or could it be some corporation predicts a profitable market for radioactive fish?

Leroy George
Former student

Mistake

In the Feb. 6 Emerald, I misquoted pro-life feminist Rosemary Bottcher. The quote should have read:

"Pro-abortion feminists resent the discrimination against a whole class of humans because they happen to be female, yet they themselves discriminate against a whole class of humans because they happen to be very young. They resent that the value of a woman is determined by whether some man wants her, yet they declare that the value of an unborn child is determined by whether some woman wants him. They resent that women have been "owned" by their husbands, yet insist that the unborn are "owned" by their mothers..."

I apologize to Ms. Bottcher and to the readers of the Emerald for any confusion I may have caused.

Jeff Hoyt
Accounting

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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.