

Editorial

Other issues remain after signing of treaty

The summit meeting this week between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has focused attention on signing an INF treaty to reduce the number of intermediate-range missiles. The meeting symbolizes a new atmosphere of respect and willingness to compromise between the leaders of the superpowers.

The INF treaty is an extension of this growing rapport, but it is only one aspect of the summit. After both sides accept the treaty, other issues including the Strategic Defense Initiative, human rights and Soviet troops in Afghanistan will be discussed. Officials on both sides seem eager to set stubbornness and distrust aside in order to negotiate compromises and resolve these problems.

After signing the treaty on Tuesday, Gorbachev and Reagan met privately to discuss arms control, human rights and strategic arms reductions. Working groups were formed for human rights and bilateral issues.

SDI or "Star Wars" has proved to be a major stumbling block in the past two summits; however, this time around the Soviet Union will not take a hard-line approach. Reagan interrupted the previous summits by balking at the Soviets' request to abandon the project. Instead of asking this again, Gorbachev will negotiate a time to observe the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The conflict about SDI comes from different definitions of the ABM treaty. The Soviet Union claims it bans testing anti-missiles in space, while the United States says it does not. This new round of negotiations promises to set a time when both countries would observe the treaty. But this may be counterproductive to the purpose of compromise. Instead of working to eliminate the need for SDI, they are finding a time to promote it.

The issue of human rights violations has prompted accusations from both sides that the other is ignoring basic rights. Protesters in the United States and the Soviet Union on Tuesday emphasized the issue of people being denied the right to leave the USSR. Tass, the Soviet news agency, quickly countered with claims that the U.S. also violates human rights.

At this point, the human rights issue is a point of petty bickering — one side claiming to be better than the other. If progress in this area is to be made, then both sides must recognize their faults and work toward overcoming them. Forcing the Soviet Union to change its ways because those ways do not coincide with ours will not be effective, just as the reciprocal situation is true.

The issue of removing Soviet troops from Afghanistan promises a beneficial solution. Officials are considering a compromise of removing troops on condition that the United States stops sending financial aid to the guerrillas.

This would be a wise step for Gorbachev, who now realizes the troops are a financial and political embarrassment. The meeting would be the mechanism for both sides to remove themselves from the area without having to claim a political defeat.

The summit plays an important, vital role in U.S.-Soviet relations. Both leaders have expressed desires to discuss problems and issues within their countries. The time and atmosphere for compromise has presented itself. It should not be ignored.



AH, DECEMBER!
I CAN'T HELP THINKING
OF THAT ROSY-CHEEKED,
JOLLY OL' MAN THAT NO ONE
REALLY BELIEVES IN...

SHIRLEY
1987-12-09
EUGENE OREGON



YEAH, HE'S
GOT THAT SUMMIT
WITH GORBACHEV
THIS MONTH...



Letters

Keep the talent

It seems to me, after many years of experience, that executive-administrative talent is exceedingly rare in the academic field. Dr. Olum is a very fine exception to that dreary conclusion. It is very plain that in our State Board of Higher Education we have a majority consisting of good old boys just itching to elect a yes-man to the top job at the University.

Edmund F. Soule
Professor Emeritus, Library

How does it help

This is a letter of complaint about the Career Planning and Placement Center. Recently, that office received a letter concerning a science-teacher position. This letter was not placed in the science-teacher job file. On the day this position closed, it was printed in the bulletin for elementary teachers. Is this how the placement center helps University students find jobs? I have used the placement services of three universities, and

the one on this campus is by far the worst.

John D. Owens
Graduate student

Nature

"It's time to recognize our traditions and answer some hard questions" — the headline of "The Religious Character of American Patriotism" in the November-December issue of *The Humanist*.

Its author points out that religion is more than patriotism. As early as 1749 Benjamin Franklin pointed to the necessity of a public religion which included the essentials of every religion.

He limited it then to: "The existence of the Deity; that he made the world and govern'd it by his Providence; that the most acceptable service of God was the doing good to men; that our souls are immortal; and that all crime will be punished, and virtue rewarded, either here or hereafter."

That creed was accepted by the Founding Fathers and kept "We the People" united until the middle of the 19th century. Then came the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The moral force of trust in God had gone with the wind. A new line of prophets according to the order of agnostics arose to assume command. They set a course to establish paradise on earth. Man at last was free. Nature's forces would by science be enslaved.

A hundred years have passed. But in our 20th century what has science wrought? The hope of paradise? Or the threat of hell?

The high priests of today's religion occupy their chairs in the halls of academe. The followers of John Dewey have taught us that God is dead. Man again is the measure of all things. "Americanism" consists of the majority rule. Some declare that democracy must

become an object of religious dedication.

If God is dead so are his laws. But nature is alive. Can the majority abrogate her laws? It's time for your generation to recognize the truth and answer some hard questions.

Norman R. Evonuk
Eugene

Recycle now

How do you interest people in recycling? Do you reason with them and present the conservationist philosophy?

Recycling saves energy, fuel, landfill space, trees and our ecology.

How about using scare tactics? At our current rate of trash generation, which includes about half recyclable materials, Lane County's landfill will reach capacity by 1992. Then what?

Perhaps we should reward Oregon's 20 percent who do recycle in an effort to entice the other 80 percent to do the same. (The national average is only 9 percent, so the Oregonians who do recycle can be proud of themselves.)

Whichever rationale you identify with, please exercise your right to recycle and encourage others to do so as well. In 1985, Oregon passed the Right to Recycle Act. Under this law garbage collectors are obligated to provide curbside service for the pickup of recyclables. These include paper, glass, aluminum, and cardboard. Please find out from your collector when this service is available to you and use it on a regular basis.

If you are interested in learning more about recycling or would like to help in an ongoing campus recycling program, please visit the Environmental Conservation and Survival Center in EMU Suite 1.

Melissa A. Medvin
Student

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