

Climate is right for weapons ban

Last month President Ronald Reagan lifted an 18-year moratorium on U.S. production of binary chemical weapons. This is an unnecessary and dangerous move that only condones the act of chemical warfare. Instead of producing more chemicals, Reagan should negotiate a mutual ban on chemical weapons with the Soviet Union.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is eager to reach such an agreement. He proposed a ban on the weapons, and to show good faith, he presented statistics on stockpiled chemical weapons in the Soviet Union.

The prevailing argument for continued U.S. production is that the weapons are needed to prevent an attack on NATO. The U.S. believes the Soviet Union has more chemical weapons than the United States. In the notification of the moratorium lift, Reagan said the weapon "is necessitated by national security interests of the United States and the interests of other NATO member nations."

The statistics shown by the Soviet Union contradict this belief. According to the Soviet Union, the two countries have equal amounts of weapons. But if the U.S. produces more weapons, the Soviet Union will be forced to follow suit. A ban would maintain the equality and the mutually assured destruction theory behind it.

Binary chemical weapons are shells filled with two fairly harmless chemicals that become deadly when released from bombs. The bombs produce a gas that attacks the central nervous system. One can kill hundreds of people in minutes.

In the age of nuclear weapons, these weapons are not necessary. Neither the United States or the Soviet Union should perpetuate this warfare.

Education adviser position has potential for benefits

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt appointed Reed College President Paul Bragdon as his education adviser yesterday. Bragdon, who is planning to retire as president in June, will assume the post in July. The new advising post can be beneficial, but it should not come at the expense of state autonomy.

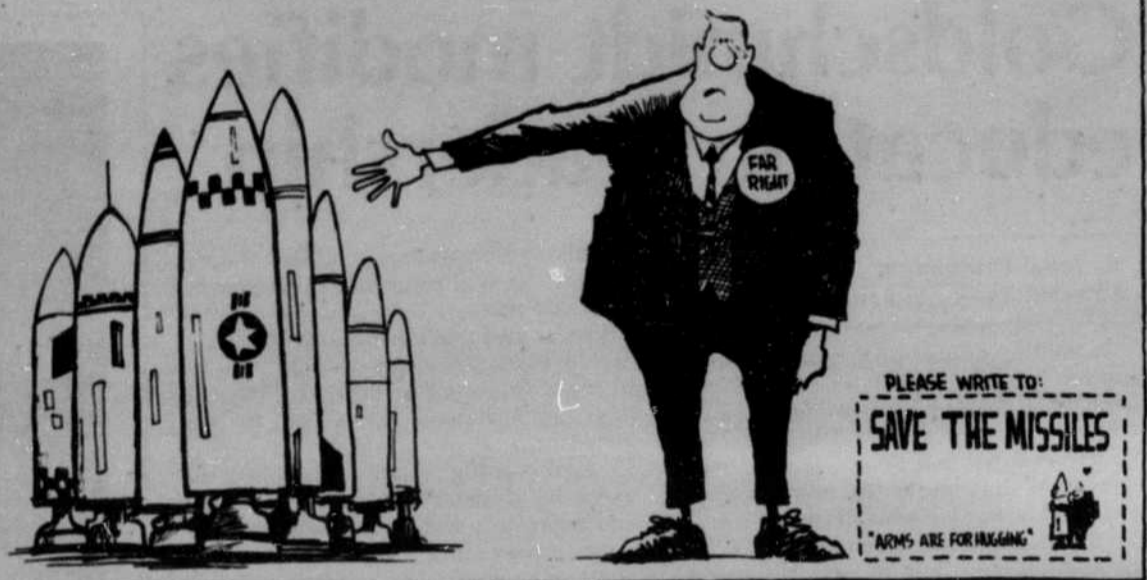
The State Board of Higher Education and the Chancellor of Education already are responsible for regulating and overseeing Oregon's universities and colleges. The adviser should not interfere with these positions. Instead, he should maintain an outside role, updating the governor on issues.

According to Floyd McKay, Gov. Goldschmidt's press secretary, the post will retain an advisory stance on "all levels of education." Bragdon will review education in Oregon and prepare a master plan for Oregon education. He also will direct the Office of Education Policy and Planning.

McKay said the advisor will not focus on a "specific, single issue." Bragdon's qualifications in higher education will benefit the universities and colleges. The state board perhaps should consider him a candidate to fill the chancellor position.

The adviser position will prove to be an important post. But it should not be abused. With the proper understanding of Oregon's education system, Bragdon and Goldschmidt can fulfill many of their goals.

CAN YOU BEAR TO WATCH THE SENSELESS SLAUGHTER OF AN ENTIRE SPECIES?



Letters

Time of crisis

Once again, GTFs are facing taxation of tuition waivers. Once again, we also are faced with a decision-making process proceeding behind closed doors.

Despite the fact that legislation to end the sunset clause of the tuition waiver tax exemption is on the agenda in both houses of Congress, and despite the fact that this legislation almost certainly will pass, the state board is preparing to stay in bureaucratic lock-step and begin withholding taxes on tuition waivers from January's paycheck.

This preparation has been pursued in a fashion similar to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's firing of Paul Olum: The voices of those most effected have been ignored.

The taxing of tuition waivers is a matter of dire significance for most GTFs. Not only will all of us have our already poverty-level incomes substantially reduced, but those of us on low-income housing and food programs will lose these means of survival as tuition waivers become taxable.

Furthermore, international GTFs will be especially hard-hit by having to swallow further tax liabilities on strictly imaginary income.

The taxing of tuition waivers only can mean three things to this institution: the ruination of GTF personal lives, the destruction of the reputation of the University's graduate programs and its overall educational excellence and the continuation of the trend toward bureaucracy, short-sightedness, and anti-democratic decision-making by those in control of higher education in Oregon.

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation calls upon members of the community to support GTFs in the coming period of crisis.

Michael Dawson
GTF President

Write me

My name is Thomas J. Karnes, and I'm 20 years old. I am writing this letter in hopes of corresponding with some of the students at the University.

I am doing time in a Kentucky state prison, and by writing this letter I will help people to understand what it's really like to go to prison. Maybe even prevent it from happening to someone else.

My address is Thomas J. Karnes, number 99000, K.S.R. 3004, W. Hwy 146, Lagrange, KY, 40032.

Thomas J. Karnes
Kentucky

Another view

The letter by James Fletcher Baxter represents the kind of xenophobic, myopic tradition in the thinking of right-wing bigots that never fails to infuriate me ("Cause and Effect," ODE, Jan. 8).

Baxter's thesis revolves around that archetypal New World anthem of the God-blessed uniqueness of American freedom, as opposed to bottomless wickedness of any other

system, particularly that of the abhorred Red Menace — collectivism.

With a complete lack of cultural relativity, Baxter unabashedly maintains that until every other political system came to define human nature in "Jeffersonian terms," which are "the only natural, Biblical terms," any reforms made in these systems remain nothing but deceptive, worthless ploys, and the people under them continue to live in the dark nightmare of a freedomless, Orwellian state.

Conveniently, Baxter ignores the fact that Western ideas can hardly be called the only natural ones; very different views on the proper balance between individual and collective rights have been — and still continue to be — a central part of the Oriental ideological heritage.

Similarly, the Biblical message concerning individual freedoms is certainly open to a variety of different interpretations; one only needs to think of John Calvin and the doctrine of predestination, a tenet hardly compatible with the Jeffersonian belief in the supremely free individual.

With all due respect to Baxter's right to express his opinions, I would nevertheless like to suggest that it would serve all of us well to realize that our own values are not the only possible ones; a variety of different possibilities exists, and all value judgments about qualitative differences among these possibilities are subjective opinions, not some natural infallible truths.

The British empire came to realize in time that God, after all, probably wasn't British, and it's high time for the lunatic fringe on the extreme right of the American political stage to realize that God certainly is not an American either.

Pertti Ahonen
History

Wednesday, January 13, 1988

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

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.

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.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director Susan Thelen
Production Manager Michele Ross
Classified Manager Kelli Mason
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Rick Martz/Sales Manager
James Betzer, Teri Boring, David Cheonis, Mike Clark, Tom Leech, Catherine Lijja, Laura McKinney, Joann Nelson, Julie Paul, Vicki Reed, Barbara Rogers, Scott Thorkildson, Joan Wildermuth

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Letter Perfect Graphics 686-5511
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor Stanley Nelson
Managing Editor Scott Maben
News Editor Carolyn Lamberson
Editorial Page Editors Angela Muniz/Steven Hoenisch
Sports Editor Aaron Knox
Photo Editor Shu-Shing Chen
Graphic Design Editor Lorraine Rath
Special Issues Editor Kelly Kortekaas
Entertainment/Sports Segment Editor H.C. Hutto
Night Editor Andrew LaMar

Associate Editors
Community Andrew LaMar
Higher Education/Administration Michael Drummond
Student Government/Activities Will Holbert
Features Kelly Kortekaas

Reporters: Betsy Clayton, Paula Green, Frale de Guzman, Craig Harris, Gary Henley, Jeff Morgan, Ingrid Petersen, Cami Swanson, Kelvin Wee

Photographers: Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Christophe Chabaudie, Andy Cripe, Cliff Etzel, John Giustina, Bobbie Lo, Gregor Okorn, Andre Ranieri, Ted Shepler, Michael Templeton, Dan Wheeler

Production: Sandra Daller / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Laura Carhart, Eva Cohen, Stephanie Drynan, Dolores Ferrero, Lisa Haggerty, Deirdre Kelly, Elliot Knight, Jung Lee, Bobbie Lo, James Mason, Ross Martin, Angela Muniz, Ted Shepler, Linda Sperling, Ingrid White, Kelly Williams, Serena Williams, X. Kang Xie