

Beware of Bush's false nuclear peace

When George Bush announced last Thursday he was scrapping a modernization of the Lance nuclear missile, some took it as just another sign that peace — true, lasting peace — was on the way. In reality, it was just another daring move by Bush's cunning political mind.

While canceling the improved Lance does ease some of the constant threat of nuclear immolation, Bush really didn't have much choice in the matter.

The Lance is a medium-range missile deployed in West Germany with a target range only effective under 75 miles. The new system would increase the range to about 250 miles — but would still limit the weapon to use on East German soil. It seems unlikely West Germans would approve deployment of a new weapon aimed strictly at their soon-to-be reunited brethren.

When you couple the above with a Congress which is becoming increasingly hostile to defense spending, you come up with an obsolete weapons system with a big (\$112 million) renovation price tag.

Given those factors, Bush's decision should come as no great shock.

Almost lost in the headlines over canceling of the Lance upgrading were some remarks Bush made at the same press conference. In it, he acknowledged for the first time that Gorbachev may be facing a serious power challenge over the Lithuania crisis. While this admission is certainly interesting, another announcement should be carefully looked at.

In his speech, Bush called for a modernization of existing weapon systems in West Germany and introduced plans for a new air-launched nuclear missile. The one thing all of these have in common is their range. All are capable of hitting the Soviet Union, and are in fact, designed to do so.

Back in the 1950s, in the heady days of early atomic research, the Pentagon took a stance of "more bang for your buck" toward nuclear weapons. Every military agency wanted weapons of their own. Depth charges, mortar shells and even mines went nuclear.

But last year changed the role of NATO and the need for atomic weapons in Europe. Bush seems to have realized this, so he is scrapping all medium-range weapons targeted at Eastern European countries (i.e. potential allies) while upgrading systems threatening to the Soviet Union.

Bush's "new" policy is just a continuance of the old doctrines of "the Evil Empire," "rollback" and "containment." The Soviet Union is still the major threat despite what our leaders have said "disputing" the fact. Bush has been careful not to push for peace, content to react, rather than act.



Letters

Too far

In our culture, it is not uncommon for those making social commentary to use images of violence and horror to make a statement about current events. The "Bad Daddies," however, have gone from making radical social commentary (which our society needs) to exploiting the already exploited.

Yes, this is in reference to the band's poster portraying them as "The Tear-gassed Daddies" while using a portrait of Jewish children being marched away at gun point by Nazis as the accompanying image.

Whether or not the band intended such comparisons to be made is almost beside the point. The point is that no one said feelings were not going to be hurt in the process of revolution, but the Daddies are certainly not making a revolution, but making money.

The Bad Daddies are using controversial images to promote themselves, not to promote the understanding of already marginalized issues. If what the band truly wants is social commentary, they are failing. They are succeeding only in offending members of the community which would probably enjoy their otherwise non-political music. Yet by advertising the way they do, they are making themselves into a personal/political subject.

There is a big difference between radical commentary (which the Daddies perhaps believe they are doing) and commentary, which only plays up to the media's images of what is happening to society (which is what the band is doing).

Kelly Weigel
Student

Costly error

I think the University is making a mistake in dropping the American Studies major. Even though the department is small, American Studies is important.

This department includes studies about American history, literature and society. In order to understand the problems in this country, the University should offer a program that

specifically studies America.

Even though I am graduating this spring, I still think the University is making a costly error by eliminating this program.

Chet Nakada
History

Contradicts

Jay Pentheny's letter (ODE, May 4) contradicts his assertion that he is "not homophobic." Come on! Despite your feeble attempts to appear civilized, your letter reeks of homophobia. I think you failed miserably in forming a rational argument, and let me tell you why.

If your distaste for non-heterosexuality is not an issue, why do you condemn same-sex couples for behaviors that are far more flagrant among heterosexuals? People with other-than-heterosexual orientations must be free to express their attraction without societal retribution. It is societal hypocrisy for this freedom to be restricted.

The Gay Pride articles were one way of letting people know that non-heterosexuals do the same things (under fire) that the sexual majority does without a second thought: engage in "rowdy sex" and make commitments. Many block out this similarity and then treat the sexual minorities accordingly, that is, blindly. If you can deal with the abstraction of non-heterosexuality, but flinch when you see women holding hands, I suggest that you have problems.

"Freakish?" What about women who meticulously paint themselves, don restrictive clothing proclaimed "oh-so-hip" by fashion fascists, and then teeter off on four-inch heels to offer themselves on the local meat markets? What about "studs" who strut around in a thinly-veiled mating dance looking for "chicks?" These customs are unblinkingly accepted, but nevertheless, I think "freakishness" is a relative term, and is unsuitable for discussions about ethics.

Oh, and "keep your sexual feelings in the closet where they belong?" Look, I'll put my

feelings back in the closet the day you hang yours up next to them. Will I be seeing you in the walk-in anytime soon?

Marina Wolf
Russian studies

Clarification

As a May 2 Oregon Daily Emerald editorial points out, recent changes in child care funding at the University "can be confusing." I would like to help clarify who has received funding, from what source, and for what purpose.

The ASUO Child Care Task Force received a \$100,000 grant from the Oregon State Scholarship Commission to fund a portion of the currently student fee-funded ASUO Child Care Subsidy Program.

The student body, through incidental fees, will fund an additional \$160,740 in subsidies that will go to graduate students, unmarried couples, foreign students and other non-resident undergraduates who have child care expenses and who demonstrate financial need.

Monies from both sources will be distributed by staff of the EMU Child Care programs under guidelines established by the ASUO Child Care Task Force and the IFC. Currently less than 40 percent of the families receiving subsidies have children enrolled in EMU Child Care programs, while the majority use other child care.

The EMU Child Care and Development Centers received increased student fee funding via a ballot measure approved at the recent student elections. These funds help to pay a portion of the operating costs of the CCDC's seven-site child care network.

Quality child care is expensive and the student body's generous IFC allocations, the University's contribution of buildings and maintenance, and now state funds from the grant all help make the University accessible to parent students by making good care for their child affordable.

Ennis Reynolds
EMU Child Care coordinator
Thursday, May 10, 1990

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