

letters to the editor

Continued from Page 4

Iranian Students' Association is an anti-imperialist, anti-reactionary organization which supports the just struggle of the toiling masses of the world, including our own people in Iran. We never let bourgeois nationalist tendencies alter our solidarity with the Arab toiling masses. We condemn the Ba'athist regime of Iraq for this invasion and we believe that Iraqi masses would never support this invasion.

We ask all progressive Iraqis, Arabs and Americans to condemn this military intervention and expose the reactionary, expansionist policy of the Ba'athist regime.

Iranian Student Association
(Nov. 4, 1980)

True disarmament needed

It is now time to separate fact from fantasy, as Kirk Cameron quite correctly pointed out in his letter to the editor of Nov. 4.

In this letter Kirk explained how the military forces of our country are strong enough to deter any foreign aggression or threats to our freedom and how it would be complete madness for our nation to continue a nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union or with any other country we feel might possibly be a future threat.

Before getting hysterical about a "Soviet threat" to the welfare of our country, we must look at the facts of military might and base our conclusions from them.

1.) American military strength in no way lags behind its Soviet counterpart. The United States Possesses well over 9,500 nuclear warheads, each capable of burning the heart out of a major city. The Soviet Union possesses just under 5,000 nuclear warheads. American missiles have a greater flight range, are more accurate than their Soviet counterparts, and are generally far technologically superior.

2.) The amount of "over-kill" each side possesses in offensive weaponry is utterly ridiculous. A hundred nuclear weapon weapons landing on the Soviet Union

would destroy a minimum of 37 million people and at least 59 percent of their industrial capacity, according to Pentagon calculations. Lethal radiation following these nuclear blasts would permeate the air and water systems. Given these realities of the nuclear age, if the Soviets cannot be deterred by 9,500 nuclear warheads, it is unclear to me why they will be deterred by 95,000.

The tragic irony is that by over-preparing against implausible threats, we are making ourselves less secure in two ways. First, we are wasting valuable resources - money, energy, imagination—that could be better directed toward more urgent security problems (such as controlling inflation, developing alternative energy sources, providing better social services such as health care, education, housing, employment conditions.)

Second, each projected escalation in the nuclear arms race (in which warheads are made deadlier; missiles more accurate) makes it more, not less, likely that we will become involved in a war with the Soviet Union through miscalculation as international relations intensify.

The absurdity of basing one's national security on the threat to commit mass murder of innocent people is seldom ever questioned and thus the result is a never-ending arms race based on the mutual fear that one side might possibly gain an unfair advantage over the other so as to be in a position to "win" a nuclear war.

Common sense therefore dictates that both countries should make an attempt for true disarmament now—while there is still time to do so. Since the United States has mostly perpetuated the arms race from the beginning of the nuclear age, I feel it is the responsibility of our country to make the first initiative that will convey to other nations a new basis for determining security, based on the recognition that the risks of moving to a new age of insanity in the nuclear arms race far outweigh the risks of peace. For the welfare of life on this planet, this military madness cannot be allowed to continue.

Jim Anderson
Nebraskans for Peace

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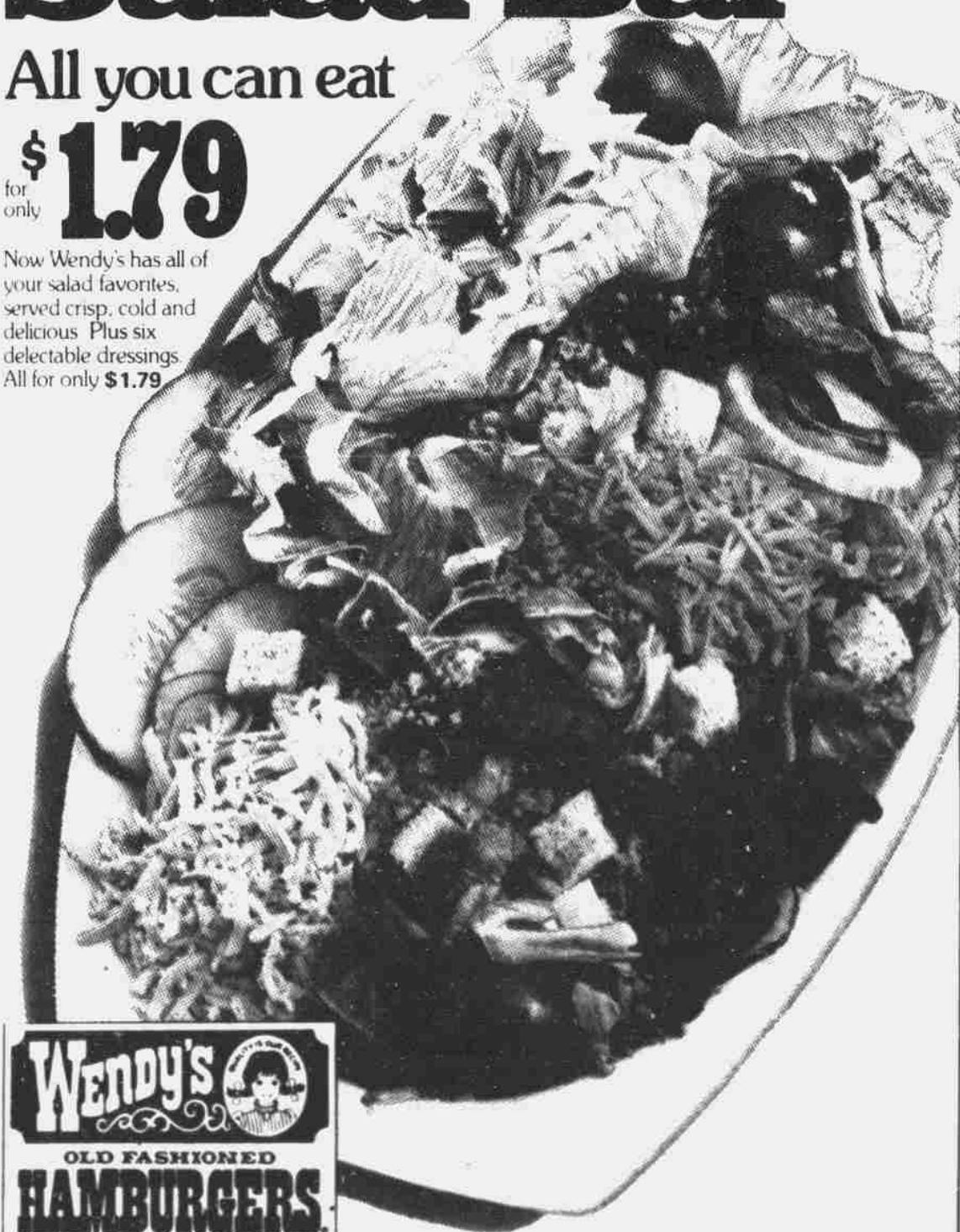
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