

Professor: Reagan playing a part in arms race

By Lroi McGinnis



Photo by Jon Natvig

Ali Mazrui

There is a struggle between welfare and warfare in the United States and President Reagan is playing a big part in it, according to a University of Michigan political science professor.

Ali Mazrui, a native of Kenya, spoke to about 50 people at St. Marks-on-the-Campus Tuesday on the topic of "Race, the Arms Race and Ronald Reagan: An African Perspective."

Mazrui addressed three topics: a struggle for supremacy between welfare and warfare, the arms race versus arms racism, and nuclear proliferation in the southern hemisphere and women's liberation in the northern hemisphere.

Mazrui said the United States is facing a dilemma of whether to be a compassionate country or a military power. Reagan's initial signals show he is leaning toward the latter, he said.

Reagan is dismantling the welfare state with budget cuts, he said. Likely casualties include food stamps, benefits for the disabled, unemployment compensation, subsidies for arts and humanities and school lunch programs, Mazrui said.

Increased defense spending

In contrast, Mazrui called Reagan's increased defense spending "signs of a revival of the Cold War."

Mazrui said that arms racism involves the idea of some countries having "enormously destructive" weapons of war and others not.

"The right to use arms and bear arms is the right of civilization," he said.

In white America, he said, there is an attitude to "arm

yourself against the blacks," "arm the white against the blacks" and "arm the blacks against the whites."

There is a concern that the United States "can't have arms falling into southern hands hands of the Third World," he said.

Mazrui said the United States has an attitude about weapons of "we must stop those guys having them but we don't want to give up our own."

The Carter administration feared arms falling into underdeveloped countries, he said.

Mazrui called for total nuclear disarmament. This could occur in horizontal proliferation—more countries acquiring nuclear weapons—as opposed to vertical proliferation, where the same countries acquire more advanced nuclear weapons, he said.

Creating changes in world armament

He said horizontal proliferation would be the only culture shock serious enough to create changes in world armament.

The United States said the Soviet Union, the two powers in nuclear armament, have the power to obliterate the human race, he said. The other countries' weapons are like games compared to them, he said.

Nuclear proliferation in the southern hemisphere would lead to negotiations toward total nuclear disarmament, Mazrui said.

But countries could become nuclear powers again, and women's involvement in the military establishment could improve the chances for peace, he said.

Mazrui said that in the socialization of war men have endured. But war has changed, he said, and "gender balance" should be experimented with in war and peace.

Free University has diverse class choices

By Hollie Wieland

Does chimney sweeping, satellite receiving or clogging interest you? If so, maybe the University Program Council's Free University is for you.

The Free University has a \$1 registration fee for students and \$1.50 for others. It offers a wide range of classes not provided by UNL curriculum, said Art Morrow, Free University chairperson.

"We are providing classes to supplement the students' overall education here at UNL," said Morrow, a sophomore in integrated studies.

According to Morrow, the instructors and the seven-member Free University committee work without pay.

Because of the voluntary work, he said, publicity, financed by student fees, is the biggest expense of the program.

The Free University costs about one and a half cents per student, Morrow said.

Chimney Sweeping 101, according to instructor Russel Dodsworth, had two classes that taught basic cleaning skills, steps in setting up a chimney sweeping business and some hazards of the business.

After the two classes were completed, students receive a "chimney sweeping diploma" and a free bag of creosote, Morrow said.

In the basic satellite receiving course, Dodsworth taught students the necessary rigging of the satellite equipment to receive programs from RCA Satcoms, Comstar and Westars.

A stress management class taught by Martin Wood and Mark Tolen dealt with general symptoms of stress and the emotional and physiological ways to handle it, Wood said.

Other classes ranged from "discussing religious cults" to "beginning cake decorating" to self-defense classes.

According to Morrow, enrollment figures have increased since fall semester of 1979 when UPC took over the operation of the Free University Program from ASUN.

Current enrollment figures of 283 have increased from 125 for the fall semester of 1979, Morrow said.

In the past, students could get credit for the classes, but that option is not available now, Morrow said.

With the growth of the program, the credit option might again be possible, Morrow said.

The Free University program started in 1966 by ASUN, originally was intended to provide students with the education they were not getting from the university, Morrow said. But the program now is viewed as an addition to university education, Morrow said.

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