

# Editorial

## Facts distill nuclear rhetoric

This country has demonstrated lately that it has not yet lapsed into a political coma. No matter which side is right, no one can deny the startling strength with which the pro- and anti-nuclear freeze movements have raised their voices around the country.

No other issue of recent years, not ERA, abortion or capital punishment, has turned so many heads. The reason for that is easy to see — life itself is a component of the bargains being made.

So it seems appropriate here, in my last editorial of the semester, to talk a bit about what fears I have about this most important issue.

My first fear is that minds are succumbing too easily to the wrong forces. The gargoyles of propaganda are waiting out there to grab at our heels. The Right says the Ruskies want to bomb us tomorrow. The Left says the arms race is controlled by industrial giants who play with the future of the world to make a few million bucks.

The truth lies somewhere between these two perspectives, and I worry that we are not going to enough trouble to find it.

We can find it by not accepting what anyone says at face value. It scares me when people get all dewy-eyed at Reagan's dreams of defense laser weapons systems as the "means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

It also worries me when people are swept up in the enthusiasm of groups like West Germany's Green Party and their demonstrations and exultations about yanking West Germany out of NATO or doing something equally outlandish.

Reagan's idea would bring the unbelievable tension of a high-tech arms race. The Green Party's would bring destructive fragmentation.

I worry that people jump too quickly to one side of the question and don't try to keep a firm grasp on their logic and perception. Maintaining that grip is difficult, but it is a must in the midst of the circus of opinions leaping about us.

The best way to maintain that grip is to read and read and read. Find out what's fact and what's fallacy. Find out who's speaking intelligently and who's letting their paranoia drive them to exaggeration.

A good place to start that reading expedition is a booklet entitled "World Military and Social Expenditures" published by Ruth Leger Sivard.

Sivard used to be chief of the economics division of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament agency. She left that job when funds for the annual publication of this booklet were cut from the budget.

Sivard's booklet doesn't go out of its way to sway your opinion in any particular direction. It doesn't have to, because it is based on facts, on research that is explained in the text, graphs and tables of the booklet.

Probably the most interesting aspect of the booklet is its demonstration of just how pervasive the arms race is.

Far from being confined to the United States and the Soviet Union, or even to developed countries, the arms race is worldwide in scope, and its implications infiltrate all levels of society.

Twenty-five million people worldwide serve in the armed forces, and there are three times that number in reserves, paramilitary forces and in industries that produce weapons and other military goods.

Of these 25 million soldiers, 15 million are in armies of nations of the Third World, and the size of armies in the underdeveloped nations is increasing.

El Salvador's huge military expenditures relative to its size mean that for every person in El Salvador, \$10 was used for military expenses last year. \$150 billion was spent on arms purchases worldwide.

These facts are all the more staggering when one considers what else this money could be spent on. According to Sivard, there are one billion people in the world who live in poverty, and 900 million adults who are illiterate.

The arms race helps to perpetuate the poverty of many of the countries it is supposedly meant to defend.

And while our negotiators sit in Geneva and debate about "our" arsenal and "their" arsenal, 54 nations now have the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons.

So, you can see that the arms race is indeed the most pressing issue in the world today. There simply is nothing of greater importance. We have no business ignoring it.

Another of my fears is that people lay the blame for the arms race on the Soviets. This is an easy way of dealing with a mysterious country, but it serves only to perpetuate the Cold War mentality that has gotten us where we are today.

I am afraid that people, especially the people who represent our country in discussions with the Soviet Union, misunderstand the situation and that they do not see how American inconsistencies and mistakes have contributed to the danger.

## Letters

### Assaults need attention

Steve Carter, (Daily Nebraskan, April 18), portrays himself as a defender of Love Library, which he seems to believe is under siege. He speaks of "attacks on the libraries" and "attacking the university, or specifically the libraries."

This is somewhat difficult to understand, given the reality that no one is "attacking" the libraries, the university, or even Carter. The issue is, rather, "offenses," "assaults," "incidents," and "acts of violence," as Carter variously calls them, by men against women.

Carter, in an apparent attempt to minimize women's perceptions of the situation, says that "while it is true sexual assaults have occurred on campus, the assaults have been relatively few in the libraries as compared to other campus locations." On what statistics does he base this statement? Until recently, no list of assaults either at Love Library or at other campus locations has existed. I know this because I spent many hours trying in vain to compile such a list, using the information Bob Fey at Campus Police gave me and checking it against the "Police Reports" column in the Daily Nebraskan. The list I sought was of those offenses actually reported — a small percentage of those committed.

The campus police have now released a report of criminal activity in and around Love Library which shows 10 criminal acts against women in the past 15 months. These include indecent exposures, men masturbating in front of women, "grabbing" women, a peeping tom in a women's bathroom, and a crime called "robbery" in which a woman was bound, gagged, dragged into a stairwell in Love North Basement, and disrobed.

If the campus police has now compiled the complete list of assaults against women at all sites on campus that I requested four weeks ago, I hope they will release it immediately. And if, as Carter says, the 10 assaults in 15 months in and around Love are truly a smaller number than at other campus locations, I am concerned about what this says about the atmosphere in which women must study, teach and work.

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★ A DAILY NEBRASKAN EXCLUSIVE! ★

THE DIARIES OF

ATTILA THE HUN

"THE SCOURGE OF GOD"

HISTORY WILL HAVE TO BE REWRITTEN!

★ "NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME..." ★

★ "OF COURSE I'M LITERATE!" ★

★ "MOMMY DROVE ME TO PILLAGE..." ★

★ "ALL I WANT IS A DATE..." ★

★ "BUT I LIKE ROMANS!" ★

DAVE LUBKE  
DAILY NEBRASKAN

There are other people who are afraid of this too. Read any of George F. Kennan's books. They will tell you that "there is no issue at stake in our political relations with the Soviet Union . . . which would conceivably be worth a nuclear war."

I hope there are enough people who believe this to be so.

David Thompson

Editor's Note: Sivard's booklet can be ordered by sending \$4 to World Priorities, Inc., Box 1003, Leesburg, Va., 22075

## Beware of life's Stockley Bluechips

My good friend Stockley Bluechip asked me the other day who I would be if I could choose to be anyone in history. I initially thought of the usual ones like Albert Schweitzer, but he wouldn't do for a publicity hound like myself; Mohandas Gandhi, but my level of patience is not up to his; and Jesus Christ, but he's been so misinterpreted and abused through modern history that I felt I'd probably be happier being somebody else. Then I looked at Stockley, and I realized that I wanted to be him.



Dave Milo Mumgaard

"Stockley, if I could choose anyone, I would choose to be you," I said. Stockley just grinned that bashful grin of his, and kicked at the ground with his Topsiders and picked at the narrow lapel of his navy blue blazer. "Yeah, I'd want to be you for a number of very good reasons," I said.

"Gee, that's nice of you to say, Dave," said Stockley. "But what about all those great men of history like John D. Rockefeller and Nelson Bunker Hunt? I mean, those guys had their acts together, man."

"Well, yes, they'd be good choices, but I want to be you, Stockley, because when it comes to ethical behavior and belief, you're a total vacuum. I really respect that."

He nodded in agreement and grinned again. "Well, it sure makes life easier, that's for sure."

I reached out and shook his hand.

"Stockley, you're really cool. You're going to graduate from college next week, go into business, and you're not going to ask yourself: What is noble? What is generous? What is good? What are the teachings of the Gospel? But you'll ask yourself: What is the most efficient way to do this in terms of production, distribution and consumption of property and wealth!"

He laughed. "Yeah, you're right. Isn't it great?"

"Not only that," I continued, the tone of respect in my voice rising. "But for profit's sake you'll build cluster bombs, nuclear power plants, and, if there's a market,

fruit-flavored deodorants. You also have the refined sense that if people disagree with society always operating by the profit motive, they're probably heathens, or worse: un-American."

"Definitely," he said firmly. "I know what's important in my life."

"I also have to admire you for something else, Stockley. You seem to be able to be a fundamental Christian who believes in Christ's 'love ethic,' at the same time you can advocate buildups in our nation's military, cut-backs in welfare programs meant to alleviate misery and roll-backs of laws intended to create more equality and opportunity."

"Nice trick, eh?" said Stockley.

I noticed his little blonde girlfriend bouncing toward us.

"Boy, you sure have a nice looking girlfriend, Stockley."

"Not only that, but she's from the best house on campus," he said proudly.

Well, I thought I'd better be going. After all, I graduate next week too, and I have to sort through all my job offers from Dow Chemical, IBP and General Dynamics. It's a tough decision, but Stockley's inspiration will make it easier.

"So long, Stockley. I really appreciate you're making it clear to me that ethics, morality and principles are nothing but hairy warts on the pristine face of humanity."

"Dermatology," he said. "There's money in it."

## Letter Policy

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