

Editor's notes

# Optional fees: pro, con

Every year the question of optional fees is discussed and rediscussed.

Proponents of optional fees argue that only those who use a particular service should have to pay for it. Opponents of optional fees argue that in order for the service to exist, we all must pay for it.

Both arguments are good; both arguments are bad.

Both factions find themselves faced with the problem of where to draw the line. If we have totally optional fees then we will have to do without many of the services we

now enjoy. Without the certainty of capital to begin the year with, many of the services funded through mandatory fees will have to fold.

On the other hand, if no one is interested in a particular service, why allow it to exist?

The point is, why solve one set of problems with another? It only costs each of us a little to have a lot. The money each of us would save by supporting only those services that we use would be certainly small. And, we must remember that if only a few decide to support a particular

service the cost of that service would be prohibitive.

Granted, the system has some bugs in it. But, we shouldn't trade our old bugs for new.

# Arms stocking continues

**LONDON** — China's missile program has slowed but the United States and the Soviet Union continue to sharpen their nuclear strike forces, reported the Institute for Strategic Studies.

At the same time, a new arms race is under way in the oil-producing countries, the institute said. Iran and Saudi Arabia each tripled their military budget in the past year. Iran now spends more money on arms than Britain.

The institute, an international body of experts, analyzed data from government, military, academic and intelligence sources. Findings were published in "The Military Balance 1975-1976," the 17th of the institute's authoritative annual surveys.

"China continued her nuclear program more slowly than earlier projections have indicated," the institute said. It said there have been no Chinese nuclear tests since the 16th was conducted in June 1974.

An unspecified number of intermediate range ballistic missiles in the 1,750-mile category were added by Peking during the year.

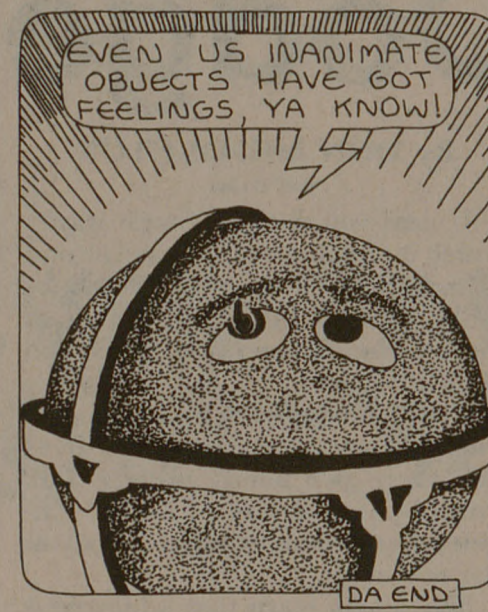
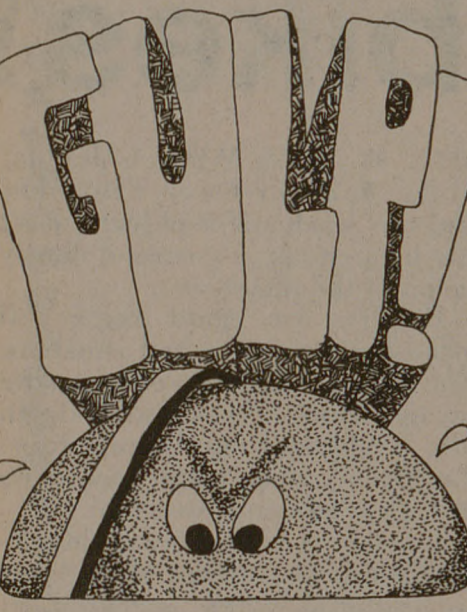
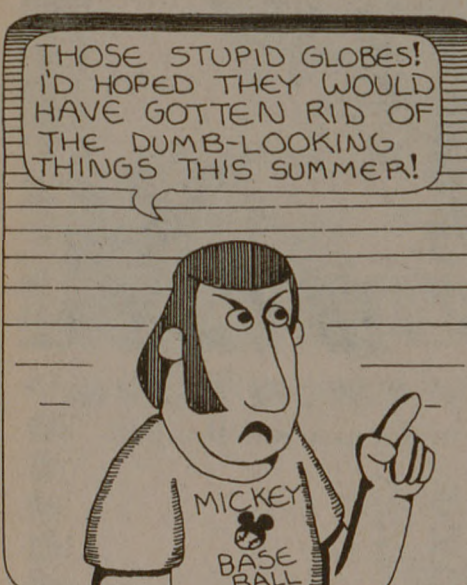
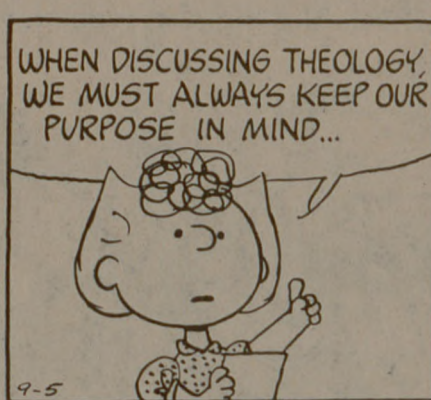
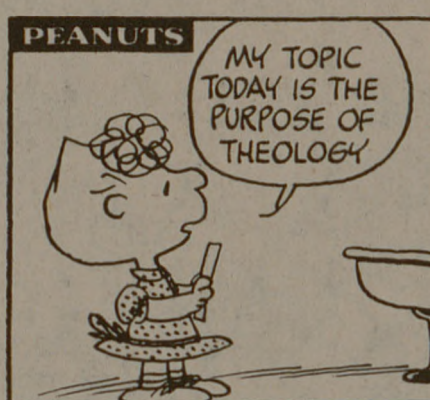
Turning to the superpowers, the institute said although the Vladivostok summit last November proposed ceilings on the number of strategic nuclear weapons, it has not checked their development by the United States and the Soviet Union.

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By JIM EARLE



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