

opinion

War between superpowers not 'just war'

by David E. Anderson

United Press International

Although "peace," when it surfaces as a concern in the churches, is often thought of as a "liberal" issue, conservative and evangelical Christians are becoming more and more outspoken in their criticism of the nuclear arms race.

Among evangelicals, the "historic peace churches" — the Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren — have long provided a pacifist witness to the conservative Christian community but their view has generally been relegated to the fringe as most evangelicals accept a theology that provides for waging a "just war."

In recent years, evangelicals around the "Sojourners" community — a group of theologically conservative yet politically radical social activists based in Washington D.C. with a network that stretches across the nation — have led a

renewed consideration of the Biblical aspects of war and peace issues.

"It seems impossible to conceive of a situation that would justify all-out war between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Most recently, in the first meeting of its kind, conservative Christians gathered in California this past summer to debate a Biblical approach to the arms race and the threat of nuclear war although they issued no statements nor took any positions as a group.

But now, one of the most prestigious and influential of evangelical seminaries has, as a body, adopted what it calls "a declaration of conscience about the arms race."

The declaration, issued by the faculty and board of trustees of Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., says, "We are compelled, as evangelical followers of Jesus Christ, to rededicate ourselves to the task of peacemaking. In doing so, we join many fellow Christians and urge still others to join us."

It challenges the traditional Christian just war theory, that war can be justified before God only when the evils are waging war are significantly less than the evils that would prevail if war were not used against them.

"We are persuaded that this condition cannot conceivably be met in armed conflict between the superpowers," the Fuller declaration said.

"It seems impossible to conceive of a situation that would justify all-out war between the Soviet Union and the United

States," it said. "What boon could victory bring to either nation?"

The declaration conceded that "as long as nations unfriendly to ours have titanic power, whether nuclear or conventional, we need power to deter them from using that power in either madness or malice."

It added, "we acknowledge the role that many have played in maintaining our capability of deterrence."

"But the uncontrolled arms race offers no predictable assurance for any nation today, while it drains our economies and leaves urgent human needs untended."

It added, however: "But the uncontrolled arms race offers

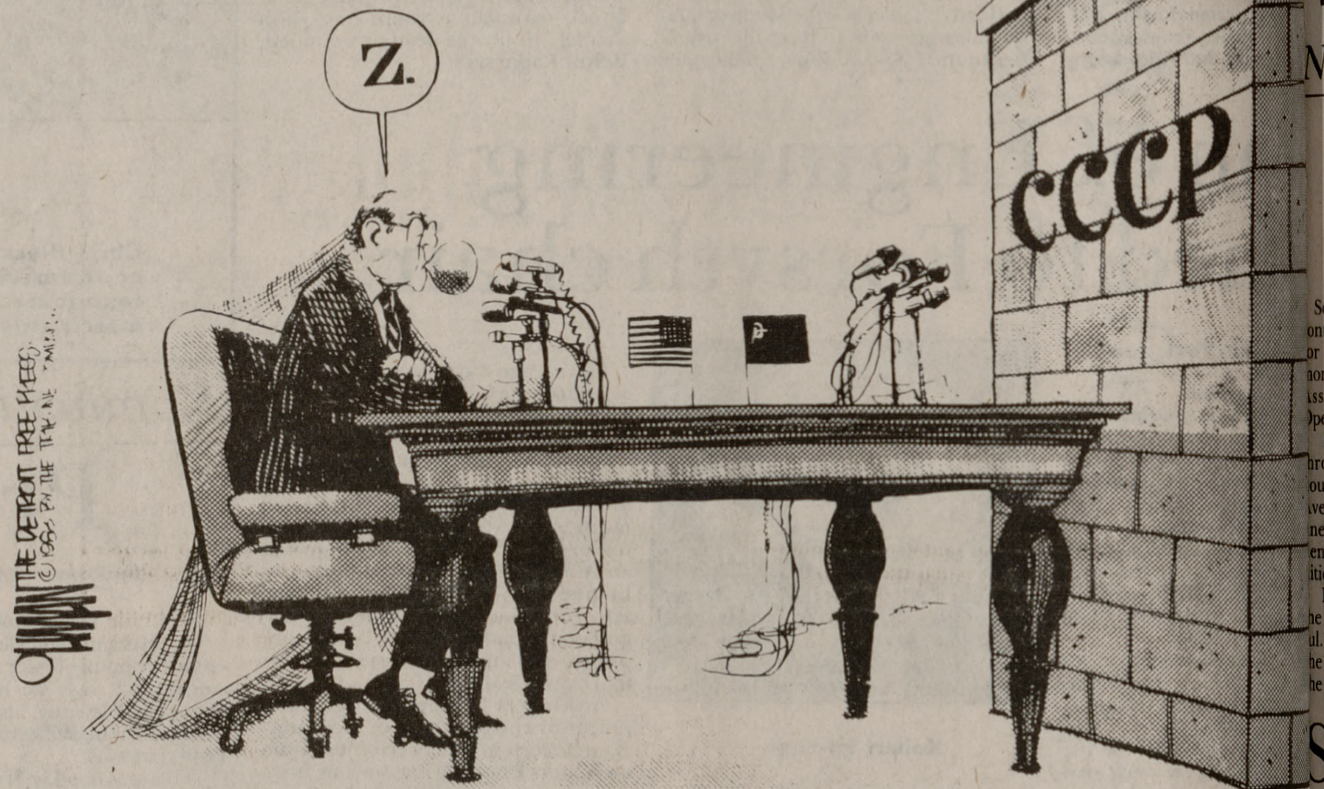
no predictable assurance for any nation today, while it drains our economies, leaves urgent human needs untended. Ordinary common sense as well as experience calls out for a controlled end to weapons race and the reduction of and military forces of all types."

The declaration noted the difference in values between the United States and the Soviet Union, adding, "We know it takes two nations with a mind for negotiation to negotiate complex arms reduction agreements."

But it said the United States seeks "fundamental change" in its relationship with the Soviet Union.

"We refuse to believe that, in a world where God is Lord, our two nations are destined to perpetual hostility. We believe that in God's providence, people need be locked forever in a closed system."

Meanwhile, back at the START talks...



Letters

'Bad Ags' don't always belong to local fraternities, sororities

Editor:

I would like to ask you some questions. First, at a school where "brotherly" love and personal excellence and acceptance are considered the most important aspects of being "Aggies," why do certain groups (i.e. dorms) continue to harass other Aggies and intentionally do damage to their property?

Second I would like to know why whenever someone says "Fraternity" or "Sorority" at A&M the immediate reply is "Bad Ag" or "Nuke the Frats."

In explaining my first question, I feel it needs to be stated to all Aggies that a completely unprovoked and injurious "joke" is being played on the Fraternity system here at A&M.

In the past year, a certain dorm has been reprimanded by the school for stealing from other Aggies. They have stolen

our hats (on campus while we are wearing them), our banners, letters (from our houses) and other various pieces of property (i.e. trophies, pictures, etc.) without any provocation or retaliation by us.

That dorm was put on probation last year and their "scavenger hunt" was discontinued.

Well, Ags, it has happened again. This time they did not only steal our property, they destroyed it. Last weekend they destroyed a tire on a person's car.

Also, they stole the new letters from our house and returned the old ones they stole last year (they set them on fire in our front yard). Is this the "Good Bull" recreation by an Aggie dorm that we all promote?

Secondly, fraternities and sororities for years now have participated in charity fundraisers, community clean-ups, student government and other campus activities.

Does that sound like the typical "Bad Ag" we hear so much about?

Jay Old

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and telephone number of the writer.

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Pretzels the salt of lasting relationships

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — According to a recent public opinion survey, couples with "similar interests" have the best shot at forming lasting relationships.

In this poll, the majority ranked similar interests ahead of "intelligence," "sense of humor," "physical attractiveness" and "good humor."

I don't necessarily quarrel with that ordering of priorities. But suppose you are primarily interested in brainpower, comic books, good looks and money, whereas the main interests of your lover are needlepoint, Bavarian art, open heart surgery and pretzels.

Does that mean your relationship is inevitably transitory? Not necessarily, I would say. It depends on whether the two of you are intellectually stimulated by

such things as open heart surgery and pretzels.

If so, you can look forward to many enchanted evenings before an open fire, heads together pondering such conundrums as whatever happened to closed heart surgery and how the origin of hard pretzels got lost in the mists of antiquity.

Nobody, we are told, knows where or when hard pretzels, as opposed to soft pretzels, first appeared.

A true intellectual realizes that many golden moments are missing from history, probably because someone neglected to write them down. The test of durability is whether both parties in a relationship are romantic enough to brood about it anyway.

I personally am intellectually romantic enough to envision in the smoke rings the image of Miss Mable Upperfloss of Amen

Corner, Vt., who is in the kitchen whipping up a batch of pretzels to take to a church social.

Upon removing the twists from the oven, she finds to her surprise and dismay that they have acquired a rigid, brittle texture. Her assumption is that she has messed up the old family recipe for soft pretzels.

The appointed hour for the social having already arrived, Miss Upperfloss does not have time to whip up another batch. Neither will her sense of honor permit her to show up with a culinary mistake.

So she takes the hard pretzels to the church and leaves them like a foundling on the rear stoop, knocking upon the door and then beating a hasty retreat ere her presence is discovered.

It hardly need be said that hard pretzels provide a new taste thrill, especially

for male parishioners, in whom they ate a strong thirst for beer.

A church being an inappropiate place to develop a craving for beer, guests begin betaking themselves to nearby tavern, long before the social ends.

The barkeep, sensing this could be the start of something big, has the hard pretzels analyzed and duplicated. Throwing into the mix a bowl of them on the night before, he keeps a triple overnight.

Miss Upperfloss, a teetotaler, shares in the fruits of her invention. Mortified by the belief that she is a pretzel baker, she goes to an early grave.

If hard pretzels lack the ingredients for a lasting relationship, better take up someone whose chief interest is playing on salt water taffy.

Nuclear power plant supporters undermining Seabrook project

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

SEABROOK, N.H. — On Oct. 7, 1979, a long-planned occupation of the nearby nuclear power complex began inauspiciously and went straight downhill.

Only 3,000 anti-nuclear activists gathered under the banner of the "Clamshell Alliance" on that cold and wet weekend. When they crossed tidal marshes aboard flimsy rubber rafts, mace-wielding police easily repelled them. The two-day non-violent "action" failed miserably, and the plant's completion seemed inevitable.

Four years later, the fate of the controversial Seabrook nuclear power station is more in doubt than ever. The plant's Unit I reactor, several years behind schedule and only 80 percent complete, is unlikely to go on line before March 1986.

Unit II, meanwhile, is less than 25 percent complete and by many accounts doomed. Seabrook's owners, a coalition of 16 New England utilities, voted unanimously last month to "delay" further work on Unit II. Many of the power companies want to halt work permanently. Ironically, Seabrook's critics say its

owners and contractors have imperiled the project through miscalculation and mismanagement.

Initially estimated at less than \$1 billion, construction costs are sure to surpass the revised estimate of \$5 billion and, according to the state public utilities commission, reach \$9 billion unless Unit II is canceled.

"It's self-destructing," said Chris Spirou, the Democratic minority leader in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. "It's not the Clamshell Alliance or the anti-nuclear people who are chipping away at this project, but those people who, behind the scenes, were gung-ho about it at first and who now see problems."

Spirou has asked Gov. John Sununu to convene a special session of the legislature before next fall to deal with skyrocketing electric bills expected to result from completion of Unit I.

The Public Service Company of New Hampshire, which holds controlling interest in Seabrook, says monthly bills will rise 40 percent; other observers say the figure is closer to 100 percent.

The threat of rate shock isn't immediately pressing. But Seabrook's remaining

backers know that their project will soon be cut down to size.

Does he or doesn't he? Frantic guessing about Ronald Reagan's second-term plans has put the spotlight on Vice President George Bush, the president's heir apparent.

Yet if Bush knows something everyone else doesn't, his personnel decisions don't show it. During the last year, Bush's staff has undergone continuing turnover.

Moreover, only three slots have been reserved for Bush confidants at the as-yet-unopened Reagan re-election campaign committee.

As the "media candidate" of 1984, Sen. John Glenn carries the burden of performing as well in public as on camera. And, as his uninspiring performance at a New Hampshire campaign stop Sept. 30 suggests, the Ohio Democrat may already have proved he's not up to the task.

At Manchester's New Hampshire College Glenn put more than 1,000 initially excited students to sleep with a lackluster speech on their least favorite issue: education.

Slouch

By Jim Earle

