

# Opinion

## Senate bill right the second time

The purpose of having a dead week is to give students time to study for final exams. But many professors choose to ignore the dead week provisions in the University regulations. The regulations exist for a reason, and the faculty needs to start following them.

Student Government is proposing that the regulations not only be enforced, but that dead week "be used by all professors as a review of all material to be included on the final examination."

The revised bill is a vast improvement over the original, which basically regurgitated the regulations. The bill sets down definite guidelines for academic activity during dead week.

Student Government should be commended for re-thinking the bill and giving it a true purpose. Dead week needs to be just that — dead.

If the University does not want to give students a time to prepare for finals, it should not provide for such a time in its regulations. As long as the dead week provision exists, it should be upheld.

The Battalion Editorial Board.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LAST 5 YEAR PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE DEFICIT:

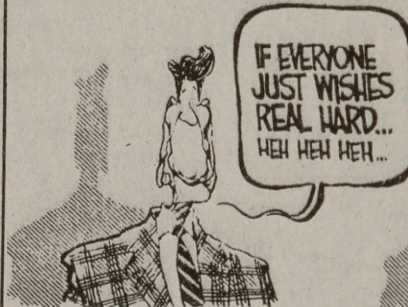
1981



1982



1983



1984



1985



## It's not how you nuke 'em, it's how many times

It's only fair, with the summit in progress, that we pay tribute to the world's great stockpiles of atomic weapons. Without them there is a good chance that Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev might not be meeting in Switzerland today.

A recent survey revealed that being blown up by a nuclear weapon is not the biggest fear in the world today. It's the fact that people can be snuffed out more than once that has most citizens on the globe slightly nervous.



Art Buchwald

According to a report by Ruth Sivard, a former official of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, there are now enough weapons on earth to kill 58 billion human beings. The catch is there aren't 58 billion people in the world.

Professor Sowa Bratten, who specializes in nuclear snuff statistics, says there is an answer to this. "Since we're short on the living and long on the weapons, the scientific community no longer counts how many people we can kill, but rather how many times we can kill them."

"How many times is that?" He took out his pocket calculator. "We can knock off everyone in the world 12 times — with favorable wind conditions, of course."

"That's a big improvement," I said. "I recall just a few years ago that the superpowers were lucky if they could kill each person five times. To what do you credit the breakthrough?"

"Better quality control. In the old days building atomic weapons was little more than a mom-and-pop business. Mom stuffed the bombs with uranium, and pop screwed on the fuses. This was okay for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but it just wasn't good enough for a global arms race. No one was thinking big."

"How did number one and number two move the arms buildup into the 20th century?"

"Their military advisers warned them that the low post-World War II kill ratio would no longer keep pace. Without extra fallout they could not guarantee the

safety of their citizens."

"Thank God for the military," I said. He continued, "Crash programs were started, and larger bangs were developed, with the help of giant cost overruns."

"It was obvious, as the demand increased for third-generation hardware, the nuclear powers would spend more and more of their gross national product on weapons. Edward Teller, the father of the H-bomb, said, 'The building up of larger and more powerful atomic weapons is the only way to stop the arms race.'"

"He didn't say that," I said. "Maybe not," Bratten admitted, "but it sounds like something he would say. In any case we all know if you're going to make a nuclear omelette you first

have to crack the plutonium." "This still doesn't explain how the superpowers managed to increase stockpiles."

"The powers didn't intend to make many deadly weapons. They just got lucky. But it wasn't the size of the bomb that made everyone happy. A bomb make a nuclear bomb. The trick is to live it where you want it to go. The breakthrough in the present nuclear systems has given man new hope."

"Do you think we have now reached plateau in overkill?" He laughed, "You ain't seen nothin' yet."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

## Classroom intimidation The New Right's newest assault on academic freedom

Efforts to make people conform to one particular position or ideology are almost always justified with lofty-sounding rhetoric, such as the need to protect our country from subversion, or the need to preserve order. The New Right has just come up with a new excuse for intimidating those who don't agree with its ideology: to protect college students from "misinformed" or "inaccurate" teaching.

This fall, a new national organization was founded called "Accuracy in Academia." While AIA claims to "combat the dissemination of misinformation" on our college and university campuses, it epitomizes the New Right's theory of education, in which diverse points of view and the free flow of ideas are seen as un-American activities.

AIA's founder, Reed Irvine, has headed an organization for the past 16 years entitled "Accuracy in Media," whose purpose is to intimidate and harass the members of the media who don't agree with his right-wing views. Ir-

vine has built his reputation, and a \$1 million organization, on the principle that there is only one "accurate" way for a journalist to cover a story.

Now he's decided there's only one "right" way for a professor to teach a course.

When "Accuracy in Academia" was announced this summer, many were horrified by its rhetoric, but few took it seriously. AIA, however, is emerging as a formidable institution. It already has volunteers on about 150 campuses across the country and has raised \$50,000 of a \$160,000 annual budget. Now AIA has hired as its new director a former New York Congressman, John LeBoutillier, whose skill at fundraising is matched only by his talents at red-baiting those with whom he disagrees.

When LeBoutillier warns against creeping socialism, he's referring to activities by members of the Democratic Party leadership, like House Speaker Tip O' Neill. According to LeBoutillier, former presidential contender Senator George McGovern is "scum." When he

talks about radical brainwashing, he's talking about what Harvard professors did to him. LeBoutillier contends that leading American journalists and numerous liberal groups are pawns in a Soviet-sponsored "disinformation" campaign, and while in Congress, co-sponsored a bill that would have created a House subcommittee on internal security.

Given AIA's founder and new director, it comes as no surprise that this new watchdog group isn't concerned, as the name suggests, with upgrading the quality of education at our nation's institutions of higher learning. It's not interested in encouraging academic freedom or balance in the classroom.

Instead, it is designed to intimidate those who are teaching what AIA's first director, Malcolm Lawrence, calls "incorrect information which leads to conclusions that may be distasteful from the point of view of our national heritage or national security . . . Just plain bad facts."

Take, for example, Dr. Mark Reader's political science course at Arizona

State University. According to AIA, it constitutes "anti-nuclear propaganda" because it overemphasizes such things as "fears of nuclear war, power and weapons."

It isn't "verifiable" facts AIA is worried about, it's "bad" facts. Take Cynthia McClintock, an associate professor of political science at George Washington University. Her course syllabus includes U.S. government papers and a textbook put out by the conservative Hoover Institution. But she's on AIA's hit list because she shows a film that is critical of the U.S.-backed Contras in Nicaragua.

AIA "logic" dictates that there is only one correct way to teach students about our involvement in Vietnam; there is only one true cause of the Civil War; and there is only one acceptable interpretation of Franklin Roosevelt's presidency. And if a professor doesn't toe AIA's line, he or she will be investigated by AIA, perhaps pressured to change the content of the course or vilified in AIA's new national newsletter.

And it's not just professors who are being intimidated. Students will wonder

if their future might suffer by questions or revealing their political beliefs and ideas.

Such chilling activities are highly appropriate anywhere. They seem particularly offensive on a university campus, where teaching different viewpoints and interpretations is an integral part of the education process. The losers in AIA's efforts are the students.

Any effort to limit the exchange of ideas leads to the "dumbing down" of education as a whole. Those who try to keep "biased" facts or ideas out of the college classroom following in the tradition of those who want to censor Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. They have forgotten the purpose of education is to teach students to grapple with complexities, learn how to think. Not, as Reed Irvine would have it, what to think.

Anthony T. Podesta is president of People for the American Way, a lawyer and a former professor of political science at Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Illinois.

## Mail Call

### Uncovering cults

EDITOR:

While Sondra Pickard, in her Nov. 6 article, portrays cults to be merely "alternative religions," incompatible with the dominant culture, there is a real danger present in such cults as the Mormons, Unification Church, Scientology, EST, TM, and a host of other "religious alternatives."

These groups do indeed provide answers and acceptance, as Dr. Stadelman points out. However, what Dr. Stadelman and others don't realize is these "answers" to the many problems we face are only temporary solutions.

These cults, which are "characterized by major deviations from Orthodox Christianity relative to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith" (Walter Martin, *The Rise of Cults*), have many distinguishing characteristics which one needs to be aware of. These include new "truths," new interpretations of Scripture,

Non-Biblical Sources of Authority, another Jesus or Messiah, changing theology, salvation by works, false prophecy and a number of other fatal doctrines.

To anyone really seeking the truth, I would recommend *Understanding the Cults* by Josh McDowell & Don Stewart, or any of numerous books on the market which takes the shroud off of these groups and exposes them for what they really are: perversions and distortions of Biblical Christianity.

Mark Shepperd '86

### In time for drop-add

EDITOR:

While watching the CBS Evening News on Nov. 6, I saw a report on an organization called Accuracy in Academia. This conservative group clandestinely monitors professors across the nation trying to root out those they feel are teaching falsehoods and misperceptions. During the report the camera panned a

map of the United States with pins marking the schools which the organization has agents at work in. Sure enough, when the map of Texas came into view, there was a pin marking the site of Texas A&M.

I hope y'all AIAers are on the ball and able to get your report out in time for drop-add next semester. It's been my experience that individuals who draw fire from close-minded conservatives are usually the most challenging and interesting thinkers. They give me the opportunity to learn different views, exercise my mind and form my own opinion — the reason I'm attending A&M.

Thomas B. Cowart '85

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