

from our readers

Pacifists miss defense point

To the editor:

Having often argued with pacifists in futile attempts to get them to make sense, I am familiar with the traits displayed by Lillian Genser of Wayne State University (quoted in your paper Feb. 15) — namely, a weak command of facts and a lack of any concrete agenda for achieving peace.

Genser was quoted as making several grossly untrue or misleading remarks. A partial list:

1. Today's bombs are "many hundreds of times as powerful" as the Hiroshima bomb — standard pacifist nonsense. Increasing megatonnage yields diminishing returns. A bomb with 1,000 times the nominal yield of the Hiroshima bomb actually has a radius of destruction only about 10 times as great.
2. There are 50,000 nuclear bombs in the world — wrong again. Maybe 50,000 nuclear devices, but most are small landmines, demolition charges and artillery shells. Less than half that many are bombs or missile warheads.
3. "All other experts" (except Reagan) say no one can win a limited nuclear war — a blatant falsehood. Thousands of bona fide military experts (e.g., the whole Soviet military establishment) consider nuclear war

quite winnable. (World War II was a limited nuclear war.)

4. There are doves as well as hawks in Russia — hardly the source of encouragement she made it out to be. The hawks are in the Kremlin, and the doves are in jail or exile.

I don't know why pacifists exaggerate the nuclear danger (the truth is scary enough), but their contempt for truth casts suspicion on their whole program — whatever it is.

For they never have any useful, concrete alternatives to offer. Genser says to write our leaders, but doesn't tell us just what we should ask them to do except "support peace and cooperation."

Wonderful. What does that mean? She doesn't say, except to talk vaguely about disarmament (mostly unilateral).

Pacifists have trouble grasping that disarmament is an imaginary concept, like the square root of negative 1. It is the fool's gold of peace. Even if nations scrap their arms, they'll rebuild them the first time someone looks at them crosswise. Disarmament will not bring peace. Rather we must create peace first, before real disarmament will be possible.

But treating the disease (creating peace) is harder than yapping about the symptoms (nuclear arms), and the pacifists have no useful ideas on that subject.

I certainly don't want nuclear war. But the lamebrain activism of the current crop of pacifists is doing more harm than good. We need real scholars

in this area, not naive dreamers.

Harry F. Noyes III
Westland

Reader protests university aid

To the editor:

So Mr. Balberman wants me to help him through law school with my tax dollars. This is one of the many needed areas where President Reagan is closing the doors on wasted tax dollars. Many students are being subsidized to go to college only to get away from home and a free vacation.

One of the reasons for the cut-back is there are millions of dollars in unpaid loans which will never be paid back. One of my sons applied for and received a student loan to go to a community college, even though I felt it was my responsibility and not my neighbors to help him and I did have funds available. He is now in medical school to become a doctor and I still don't feel that it is the taxpayers responsibility to help him financially and he is not being helped by them.

So I say nuts to you Mr. Balberman. If you want to go to law school to make these big bucks, do as my son is doing and make it on your own.

Virgil Thill
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