

EDITORIAL

U.S. must identify Middle East goals

President Bush has really stepped in it now. And rather than take the next step to pull himself out, he seems content to wallow around in the mess for a while.

After three months of Iraqi occupation in Kuwait, Bush has begun to step up his ambiguous war of words with Saddam Hussein. Bush's statements that Hussein must get out of Kuwait or fear the wrath of the United States have been backed up by a policy with seemingly little direction.

There are 250,000 American soldiers in the Middle East at the moment, and there are reportedly another 100,000 on the way. That nearly matches the largest amount of Americans that were ever in Vietnam at any time. It is time for Bush to let those Americans and citizens here at home know what his policy over there is — if he does know what it is.

The unclear strategy in the Gulf has been built on one premise — Hussein must leave Kuwait. However, Hussein has shown little interest in giving up his newly acquired prize.

It is beginning to look as though Bush's plan was to scare Hussein into a retreat, and when that didn't work, he had no back-up plan.

Does fulfillment of Bush's policy mean the U.S. is prepared to take the offensive in a war to remove Hussein from Kuwait? Or, does it mean, as some have suggested, that Bush wants to not only liberate Kuwait, but dismantle the Iraqi war machine as well?

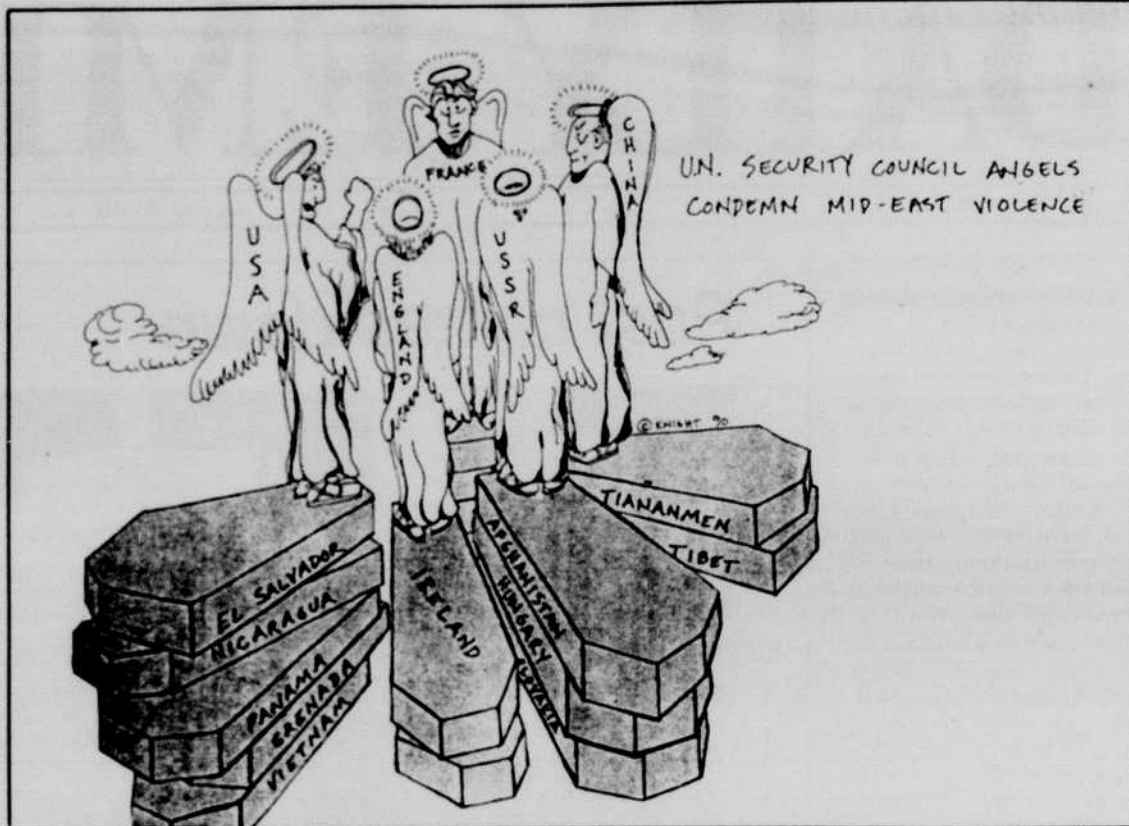
These questions should already be answered when there are so many American soldiers waiting in fox holes halfway across the world.

The President's latest barrage of threats to Hussein could be an attempt to ready Americans for the eventuality of an offensive war. However, Bush should not only be worried about public sentiment. If Bush uses U.S. troops in an act of aggression rather than as a defense without the approval of Congress, he will lose the support of many Americans.

With American lives potentially on the line, some clear-cut policy should be in effect. If Bush plans to take the offensive in the crisis he should get the approval of Congress first.

Americans apparently backed up the President when he was defending the Saudi's from further Iraqi aggression. But the attitude of compliance, and the feeling that the U.S. is taking part in a necessary evil, may disappear when as many as 20,000 U.S. soldiers are killed driving Hussein back into Iraq.

Before Bush makes any further threats toward Hussein, he better make sure that he has the public's support to back them up.



OSU forced to confront discrimination

Racism is the main topic on the Oregon State University campus this year.

The coordinator of the OSU Black Cultural Forum has filed racial harassment charges against a group of men who yelled racist remarks at him from a van. And he closed the forum down until steps are taken to negate racist attitudes.

The director of Ethnic Minority and Disabled Student Affairs has called for the resignation of most of the OSU student government because of a skit performed at a summer retreat in which foreign teachers and students were ridiculed.

What should now be done?

Some suggestions include having all OSU student government members participate in a minority awareness workshop to deal with racial, sexual, homophobic and general discrimination issues.

A better idea is to make such workshops mandatory for all entering students — whether freshmen or transfer. Students need to look at themselves — in a mirror, not

through rose-colored glasses.

But the biggest problem is getting friends to listen to friends. It's easy to overlook racist, sexist or anti-gay remarks by people you know because "they don't really feel that way." Battle lines are being drawn, however, and people can only be on one side or the other. Discrimination has to be addressed by the people who are on the receiving end of it, and the rest better listen and pay attention.

In the 1960s, race riots sprung up across the country because the lip service given to anti-discrimination wasn't followed by action. It's one thing to pass legislation banning discrimination, it's another thing to have discrimination not exist in society.

Token measures don't work. What's the use of declaring Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday if we only look at it as a day off?

Discrimination 101 should be the first class everyone takes in college. Until then, frustrations will mount and anger will grow. Remember Watts, Detroit and Newark in the 1960s?

LETTERS

Guilty

How could...why would a loving, intelligent, wise human being, who freely chooses to have sex with her husband/boyfriend/etc. — and in doing so conceived another human being — choose to kill (abort) that same, although small, growing human being inside of her body — but definitely distinct and separate from her own body?

This legal genocide must stop. Since legalization of abortion on demand, 25 million babies have died unnecessarily. That means about 4,000 a day in the U.S. or 1,500,000 per year. Before the ruling, average abortions were 100,000 a year. Is it enough?

In a Women Exploited by Abortion study done with 252 women in 42 states, who had had abortions, 72 percent said they would not have had an abortion or a self-induced abortion if it had not been "legal." Why is it legal to kill your own child, baby (not fetus)?

If we stand by and do nothing we are as guilty as the parents, boyfriends, husbands, and women/girls who kill their own children for whatever reason: selfishness; greed; economics; etc.

Also guilty are the doctors, clinics, nurses and planners who persuade the women to abort the child.

Please help stop the mass slaughter of an entire generation of Americans.

Vote yes on Measures 8 and 10.

Rebecca L. Wolf
Springfield

Not disgusting

I could not believe the recent letters written by Ron Williams and Brendan Briggs. (ODE Oct. 23 and 24), and their homophobic content.

Briggs states that our rally for National Coming Out Day was purely to make straights "feel sorry for these poor, oppressed folk." Would he have said this

about a black pride rally? I think not.

Briggs also states that we felt that we needed to "force" our "collective" experiences on all straights. Wrong.

Briggs, as a history major, should know that throughout history straights have flaunted their sexuality much more than gays (ads, public affection). Gays cannot hold hands without being jeered at or physically abused (let alone kiss in public).

We cannot be "out" to our families without the risk of being financially or emotionally cut off. We, as gays, cannot show up with our partner for Sunday dinner without asking our parents or inviting someone as a "friend."

Williams said that we are not within "the accepted norm." We gathered in that courtyard to "come out" to our campus because we want to be accepted.

We don't flaunt our sexuality nearly as much as heterosexuals because we are in danger if

we do. We want to be able to walk along our campus and hold hands without feeling afraid for our welfare.

We want you to see our love as affectionate, not disgusting. Until we are seen in this manner, we will continue gathering, "coming out" and having pride.

Kristen Inmann-Wilson
Student

Paying twice

Of every \$10 consumers spend on food, nearly \$1 goes for food packaging. Product packaging is a big business for corporate giants like Exxon, Dow Chemical and Union Carbide, which realize huge profits by pushing throwaway plastics on our supermarket shelves. Increasing amounts of plastic packaging means profit margins.

But, consumers get hit twice. We pay for it on the shelves when we are forced to buy products in excess packaging,

and we pay for it when we take the trash out.

Measure 6, the Oregon Recycling Act, will result in simpler packaging by requiring it to be reusable, recyclable or made from recycled materials. Consumers and retailers will pay for less packaging, save money and conserve natural resources.

The Oregon Recycling Act is good for consumers. Vote yes on 6.

Tom Novick
Oregon Consumer League

Voice

Somebody needs to speak up for the unborn babies because they are not given the chance to speak for themselves.

I would like to know what their choice is in the matter of abortion? It seems to me they don't have one. The choice is made for them like it or not. Vote yes on 8 and 10.

Brian E. Johnson
Sociology

Monday, November 5, 1990