

Time for Bush to consult Congress

President Bush has upped the ante in the Persian Gulf. Rather than rotating troops out of the Gulf when 240,000 more Americans are deployed there, he has decided to leave all troops there and add to the force.

While the rhetoric directed toward Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein by Bush has died down after last week's election, the decision to increase the size of the force is an ominous sign.

The larger force indicates the chances that offensive action will be used have increased. It will be more difficult — and expensive — for the United States to wait for economic sanctions to work when the size of the force in the region has been doubled.

Bush says he wants to make clear to Hussein that the United States and other members of the United Nations mean business. He seems to believe that having a large enough force to attack Hussein will accomplish this.

But it could be possible that Hussein is counting on opposition to war by those in the United States, in order to thwart an American war effort. It is the same tactic used by the North Vietnamese.

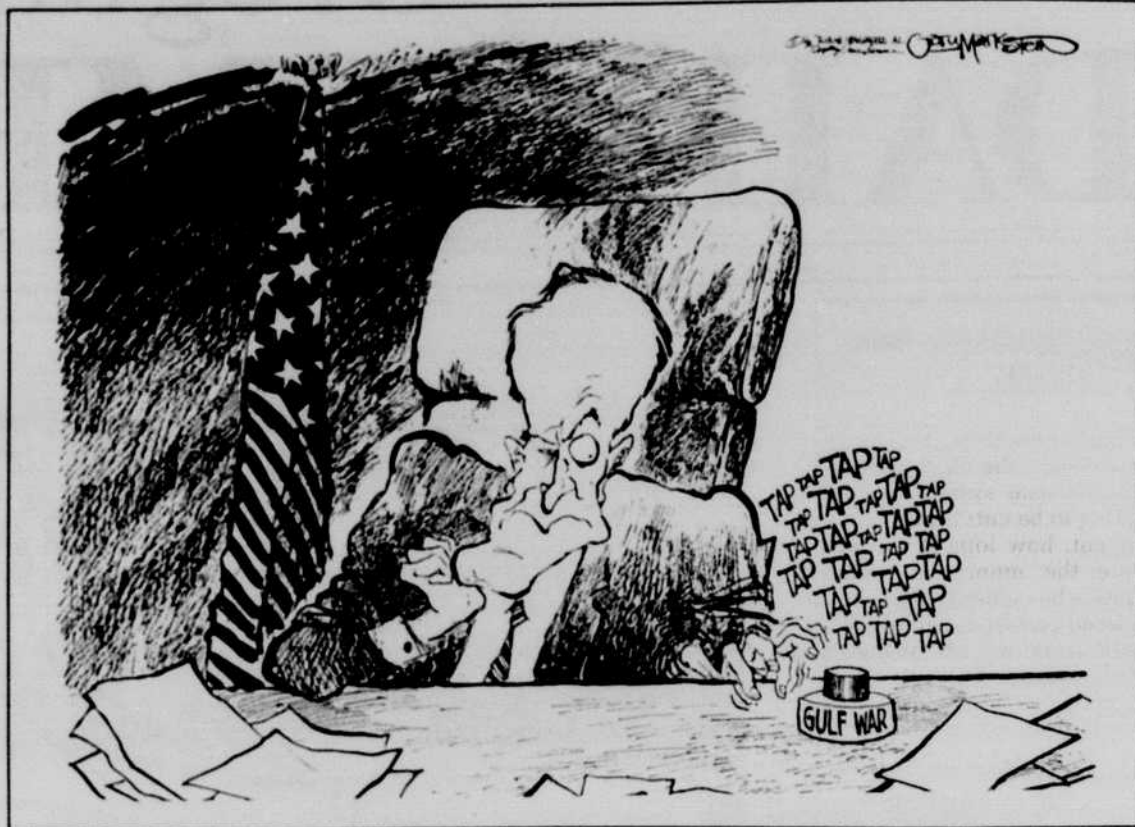
Now more than ever it is time for Bush to gain Congress' support for his Middle East actions. Only by going through the proper political channels will Bush get the support that is needed in these situations.

If he cannot get that support, then he should accept that middle-class and poor Americans don't want their sons and daughters dying in another questionably motivated war.

It is time for Bush to tell the public the truth about this conflict. The rallying call he gave about standing up to "naked aggression" worked well to get the approval of Congress and the public when Iraq first stormed into Kuwait.

Americans, however, are not going to buy the "world's policeman" excuse if the crisis turns out to be a long, drawn-out affair. As blood is shed, that excuse will not motivate and bring the country together.

Bush needs to tell the public the true economic motivations behind the United States' stance in the Middle East and let Americans decide if the lives of their youth are a fair price to pay for accessible and cheap oil.



Move the bowl games out of Arizona

Reactions to Arizona voters rejection of Martin Luther King's birthday as a state holiday by a 51- to 49-percent margin have reached the football field.

If the teams picked to play in the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona object to the location, organizers of the game have said they would move the prestigious bowl to Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego. NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue has also said he would recommend that the 1993 Super Bowl location be moved from the Phoenix area.

This is a step in the right direction. Martin Luther King certainly is one of the most important figures in American history. His accomplishments are as great as any other's in the history of the world. The rejection by Arizona voters is a slap in the face of everything for which he worked.

King is not a role model and hero for

blacks only. His efforts to make positive changes in a nonviolent manner should be respected by all people. His dreams of a world of equality for everyone cross all boundaries of race and religion. He was a person whom every American should emulate. Celebrating his birthday is the least this country can do to honor this man.

In fairness, the people of Arizona have a right to say no to the holiday. And the people in the rest of the country have the right to say no to Arizona.

Boycotting Arizona functions will send the strongest message possible to citizens of the state. What they did will not be looked on favorably by the rest of the country and they will feel the ill effects of their decision. However, if citizens of Arizona want to remain isolated, that is certainly their choice.

LETTERS

Editor's note: Because of the number of letters the Emerald has received regarding the Grateful Dead controversy, we will be unable to print them all. We have chosen letters that we believe typify the general ideas expressed. The remainder of the letters will be forwarded to the office of Dan Williams, University vice president for administration, Room 202 Johnson Hall.

Double Dead

The ruling regarding the Grateful Dead being banned from Autzen Stadium because it "doesn't reflect positively on the University" seems to me to invoke the age-old maxim called the "double standard."

Contrary to that decision, many people believe that Grateful Dead shows are positive, and the fact that they have played successfully and with little incident emphasizes that fact.

I was born and raised in Oregon, went to and graduated from the University, and participated in the athletic program while a student.

The Grateful Dead concerts certainly represent a different cultural statement than a football game, but the similarities as to the size of the crowd and

the number of problems seems to be about the same.

Their type of dress, length of hair and modes of transportation probably differ from a football game, but overall the quality of entertainment, cooperation from fans and authorities, and enjoyment of the event is at least equal to the football games.

I believe the University's assessment of the situation is a little off-base, and that the spirit and good times associated with Grateful Dead shows, and the efficient operations of these events has been a major plus for the University.

The shows received national media coverage and the reviews were excellent, both on the Dead and on the community.

In view of these positives, I hope the University will reconsider this ban.

David T. Leiken
President
Double Tee Promotions

Not the Dead

Why are Dead fans being punished for yet another example of violent criminality on the part of the Greek system? Sandra Bennett, one of the concerned citizens opposed to the

Dead, should realize her son died at a University fraternity in the same manner as a lot of people who have enough money to snort a good portion up their nose.

In the presence of his "brothers" Bennett died not because of the Grateful Dead, but because he was ignorant to the fact that not only does cocaine make people obnoxious, it also strains the heart. If Bennett lived in a culture where knowledge and responsibility were valued instead of bigoted ignorance, he might have stumbled onto a "drug awareness" booth on campus that would have explained to him why only people with too much money do coke. He may have been told about more appropriate substances for recreational use such as marijuana. By pretending all drugs are one and the same (evil), which intelligent people know isn't true, and by offering only one rhetorical blurb, "drugs are bad," people get hurt — even killed. It is ignorance about drugs that kills, and bigotry that oppresses.

Michelle E. Loew
French and Women's studies

Deadberries

Not to blow raspberries at the Duck's victory over UCLA, but

when was the last time the goalposts were torn down or women physically abused and harassed at a Grateful Dead concert?

Dean Backus
Alumnus

Deadly cuts

As much as I am annoyed by anti-drug hysteria dictating what cultural events I may enjoy, I am more annoyed by the probability that revenues lost by banning the Grateful Dead will be made up at the old chopping block.

The usual victim will be the humanities because these disciplines are unwelcome in a commodity-dominated society.

While Dan Williams seems to be concerned about what is "central to our purpose as a university," it is clear he considers football to be at least as

central as science and more central than humanities

Autzen Stadium rarely fills to capacity while our classrooms are overcrowded to pay for football scholarships. Despite its enormous deficit the Athletic Department never has to consider making athletics strictly intramural.

Yet, when the money runs out in the general university, the administration hacks away at sections, classes and departments in the humanities without mercy.

Let's have the Dead play next year and use the proceeds to fund an African Studies program. It's time to kiss the Athletic Department and its deficits goodbye and start living up to our purpose as a university — education.

John Higgins
Journalism

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.