

Bush embarking on South America tour

President George Bush is traveling in South America this week, on an "official" goodwill mission to Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela.

Unofficially, he's seeking support for his current Middle East policy — whatever it is at the moment.

Presidents like to travel to friendly countries every five years, informing them of their importance to the United States.

Bush's first stop is Brazil. It's the biggest country in South America, both geographically and economically. Brazil is one of the world's largest debtor nations, owing hundreds of billions of dollars to the World Bank.

Uruguay is noted for years of military rule, so for that reason alone it deserves the United States' recognition.

The Argentina visit comes during uneasy times there. An attempted coup this week by former military rulers almost canceled Bush's visit. But the president supports the current Argentine government. Who cares if it hangs by a thread?

Stop number four is in Chile. Though Chile finally got Gen. Pinochet out of the presidency, it hasn't forgotten that the CIA put him in power to begin with, overthrowing a democratically-elected president in 1973. Pinochet still controls the military in Chile, so Bush's lip-syncing techniques will come in handy there.

The tour winds up in Venezuela. It not only supplies the United States with a lot of oil, but is also a staunch supporter of Bush's gulf policy. Bush is badly in need of both oil and support.

Significantly absent on this trip are stops along the "drug" connection. There will be no visits to Columbia, Bolivia, or Peru — the three big cocaine suppliers in South America. Bush has bigger problems than drugs these days.

Just as singers go on tour to promote records, leaders go on tour to promote policies. As deadlines are given to Saddam Hussein to get out of Kuwait, Bush wants the support of the world.

He already has the support of the United Nations to use force after Jan. 15. But personal appearances lend credence to policies. And if American soldiers or civilians die in the gulf, it won't matter much to South America.

South America doesn't have 400,000 soldiers watching and waiting far from home.



Suicide machine inventor not a murderer

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, best known as the man who invented the home suicide machine, has been charged with murder in connection with the death of a Portland woman.

The woman was suffering from Alzheimer's disease when she and her husband decided to travel to Detroit to use Kevorkian's machine. She died in the back of Kevorkian's Volkswagon van the day after she arrived in the city — it was the only facility Kevorkian had in which his machine could be used.

Kevorkian connected the woman to an intravenous blood line; then it was up to her to hit a switch that would release poison into her system and kill her within minutes.

The murder charge stems from the fact that Kevorkian not only supplied the means of suicide but assisted the woman by connecting the machine to her.

He was charged with murder because authorities are afraid of a surge of euthanasia in the country. Kevorkian is being charged

with murder to set an example for others who might assist their loved ones in committing suicide.

It is too bad that the man's career and life could be ruined while the country struggles to find its moral footing in the euthanasia question. Kevorkian is no more guilty of murder than someone who hands a gun to a friend who then commits suicide with the weapon. The Michigan courts have already decided a case similar to that of someone handing a gun to a friend — the court ruled in favor of the surviving friend.

Why would that case not be considered murder when Kevorkian's is? Is it because Kevorkian is a doctor? Is it because he invented a machine that has no purpose other than to allow someone to end his or her own life?

Whatever the reasons are, they are not justifiable. Kevorkian should not be made a scapegoat for the the nation's debate on the issue.

LETTERS

Charged up

It is very disappointing that the EMU food service has raised the price of the reusable plastic mugs. They have gone up from a dollar a week ago to \$2. I suppose costs from last week have gone up a dollar!

At least that is the answer we will receive. Why does this department want to put a 100 percent mark up on environmental consciousness? Supposedly these reusable mugs were introduced to keep costs down as well as to produce less litter. If they are saving money, what happens to the incredible mark-up on these products? Are we being charged in order to make their budget balance at the end of the fiscal year.

Thomas K. Harris
Eugene

Waste of time

My intention in writing this letter was to try and inject some much needed common sense into this tiresome diatribe against the CIA we are forced to read every day.

However, I now realize that

would not only be fruitless but a waste of valuable time as well. For that Birkenstock-clad minority that was out harassing the CIA recruiter (made up of the usual aging hippies, transients off 13th Street and other assorted successes in life) are beyond any hope.

I will not go into the argument that students do have a right to interview in private and without interruptions by subversive crusaders carrying out their leftist theme of the week.

I will, however, not pass up the opportunity to point out something to all of you who participated in that ridiculous exercise. In the grand scheme of things, boys and girls (in the real world outside of Eugene), none of you are of any consequence.

Steven Weidman
International Studies

Thinking G.I.s

I feel that the *Emerald's* editorial, "Guardman's refusal a noble concept," (*ODE*, Nov. 30) was ludicrous. Specifically, the statement that the "reason

young men and women constitute the majority of enlisted personnel is because they are most likely to obey without thinking," is absurd.

What is the source of your information? You apparently do not intend to be taken seriously. I would suggest that most enlisted personnel are young because the older soldiers have moved up in the ranks. Should we make the 19-year-olds the senior sergeants or generals and have them issue the orders to the older, more experienced men and women?

Our soldiers are taught to think, and constitute the best-educated military force in the world. They are given law-of-war classes in basic training and throughout their careers, and are emphatically instructed not to obey unlawful orders.

On the other hand, our military are taught to be subordinate to civilian authority. The legality of a shooting war in the gulf is a matter for the three branches of government to decide. But the soldier deploys!

I hope there is no war, as I have many friends serving. I'm not sure whether a war would

be right or wrong. The dilemma requires open, thoughtful debate, not ill-thought, ill-informed, irresponsible reaction.

Dave Taylor
Graduate student
Former U.S. Army Captain

Act now

Because an entire sentence was left out of Jennifer Potter's letter (*ODE*, Nov. 30) we have reprinted it in its entirety.

President Bush has given several reasons explaining the presence of what will soon be 400,000 American troops in the Middle East, such as protecting America's economic interests, not rewarding aggression, protecting innocent lives and achieving stability in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, Bush's actions contradict most of his ideals.

In addition to this, most Americans do not want war. How many American and Arab soldiers and civilians must die before the American people, the Congress, and the president realize that a huge offensive force in the Middle East is absurd?

The conflicts in the Middle East have been a tragic and troubling question for rulers and revolutionaries over the millenia. For Bush to believe that he can achieve stability there with a "short" war is incredibly unrealistic.

If we're going to have a war, it needs to have the firm support of the American people, so all you who think that a Middle East war will make the world a better place, raise your hands! All the rest of you, speak against war now.

Jennifer Potter
Student

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.