

Long war will not be tolerated by citizens

By now it is old news. The United States has started the "liberation of Kuwait."

While most of us watch TV or attend classes here in serene Eugene, U.S. war planes are bombing Iraqi strongholds in both Kuwait and Iraq. There are more than 1 million men and women facing off in the desert, waiting for the dust to settle before ground forces are engaged.

As ground troops enter the fighting, the tally of dead and wounded is expected to rise significantly. Bush has promised that a military victory by U.N. forces will not take long. He said the powers-that-be who send young Americans to war have learned their lessons from Vietnam. Soldiers will not be asked to fight this war "with one hand tied behind their backs," he said.

Every American should be hoping Bush is right.

The horrors of the battlefield and the senselessness of death in combat should make war abhorrent to us all. The nature of war is repulsive. But now that men and women from this country are engaged in a battle that could cost them their lives, the military should be doing everything in its power to crush Hussein and his forces as quickly as possible. Now that the fighting is under way, a quick victory is the best hope for peace.

The men and women in the Persian Gulf had no part in the decision that sent them there. Many of them do not want to be there. They deserve nothing less than the support of everyone who is safe at home in the United States.

However, supporting the troops and hoping the fighting ends quickly with many lives spared does not mean people should stop protesting.

Bush knows he now has no choice but to win this war as fast as possible. Protesting the war in the gulf will remind Bush that as "human remains pouches" begin to come back filled, support for this war will evaporate.

Bush should be shown that citizens of this country do not agree with what he is doing. He has not clearly justified this action. Americans are not convinced that the driving force of this war is anything more than the liberation of cheap and accessible oil. Letting the president know that as the war goes on, anti-war sentiment will only grow stronger, should strengthen his resolve to end this terrible mistake.

Boycott Coke, not the EMU Food Services

Some student groups have decided to boycott all EMU Food Services because they sell Coca-Cola, a product sold on campus through a state contract.

While we support the boycott of Coca-Cola to protest the company's involvement in South Africa, we do not support boycotting the EMU Food Services.

The ASUO Executive, the Black Student Union and Students Against Apartheid have called for a boycott of EMU Food Services every Wednesday until Coca-Cola is removed from the campus. EMU Food Servers include the EMU Main Desk, Fountain Court Cafe, EMU Food Vans, EMU Fishbowl, Sky-light Cafe and EMU Catering.

It is the state's responsibility to contract soft drink companies for public colleges and universities, so the selling of Coke on campus is not the EMU's business.

Concerned students should protest to state procurement decision-makers and insist that students be included in decisions that affect them.

If boycotters are serious about ridding the EMU Food Services of Coke, they should

station a protester in front of all Coke fountains with information about the Coca-Cola company and its association with apartheid.

A letter-writing campaign to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education would not only make administrators at the state level aware of the problem, it would educate them as well.

Perhaps the student groups spearheading the boycott could provide postcards or letter forms for students to voice their concerns to state officials.

The groups could even take responsibility for collecting these letters and sending them to the state. This would make it easy and convenient for many students to voice their opinions.

Overall, a letter-writing campaign would be a more positive and direct effort than boycotting the EMU Food Services.

We would like to see Coca-Cola off the campus, but not at the expense of the EMU.

Students should keep eating at the EMU Food Services, but we suggest they try a drink other than Coca-Cola.

LETTERS

Bad show

I would like to thank the artists responsible for their most attractive contribution to the University's campus by way of extensive yellow ribbon bearing the message "Celebrate Diversity."

I must say that it certainly compliments the natural beauty of the campus. I'm also glad that we are all open-minded enough to see that celebrating diversity includes vandalism and littering as commendable actions.

It is good to see that people can show their diversity in such an outspoken way, especially in a community that is so environmentally conscious.

Though I'm sure that they used recyclable plastic ribbon that is biodegradable.

Allen James
Student

Why do we resort to such an archaic and painfully destructive means of solving a problem in the midst of our search for the so-called "Global Village" — a place of peace and harmony?

If the countries of the world only put as much strength and energy into looking for peace as they put into fighting each other, where would that put us?

Do I and my friends and their families have to shed blood and tears just to save some politician's face and a barrel of oil? Someday will I tell my children about Kuwait the way my parents tell me about Vietnam — or will it be like Korea that we don't hear about?

Must I simply accept these things as part of what falls under the hat (helmet) of being an American?

Enna Dole
Student

Ashamed

Today I am ashamed to have the amount of opportunity and freedom that I do under the name of the U.S. government. George Bush and the congressmen who gave him the power to initiate war.

Condemnation

I conscientiously object to this and all forms of war. The use of violence, bloodshed and murder is not an appropriate form of human interaction, and will never solve conflict.

I condemn the United States

for its involvement with the Kuwaiti invasion.

I condemn Saddam Hussein for his invasion of Kuwait.

I condemn the state of Israel for their use of violence to deal with Palestinians.

I condemn the Palestinians for their use of force to attempt to gain the independent Palestine.

I object to all forms of war, violence, or hostility used to solve human conflict where peaceful resolution should be implemented. I will not now or ever will kill another for my country or any other.

Phillip Andrew Simon
Business

Paradox

It's quite a paradox. I see peace marches and protests concerning our troops in Saudi Arabia. "No blood for oil!" No one wants to see our sons and daughters killed on foreign soil. But isn't it amazing that many of the people rallying for peace voted no on Measures 8 and 10 ... in other words, it's alright to kill them while they're in the womb! How about this: no blood for the life you conceived during your few

moments of pleasure, just because you want an easy way out!

Let's at least be consistent in what we believe.

Ron Williams
Employed on campus

Where will it go?

Diversity is a great thing. To expound that we should celebrate diversity is a great thing and, of course, appropriate this week while we mark the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But I must question the wisdom of presenting the message of "celebrate diversity" by wrapping our campus in yellow plastic tape.

When the week has ended what will become of all this plastic tape? It will be taken down and disposed of — thrown away. Off it will go to some kind of landfill where it will remain forever.

I simply find it unfortunate that someone on this campus found it appropriate to urge us to celebrate one sort of diversity — cultural, ethnic — while threatening another sort — biological.

We should celebrate and respect both these forms of diversity. And they are far from being mutually exclusive.

Clearly there is much the dominant European culture in this country (and others) could learn from other cultures regarding the treatment of our mutual home and how best to respect and celebrate cultural diversity.

We should celebrate the diversity of peoples while respecting the diversity of the Earth.

Elizabeth Cage
Political Science/
Anthropology

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.