

Kurds pay with lives for Bush's idle talk

Even though he may look like a wimp when throwing out the first pitch for an Opening Day baseball game, George Bush's willingness to stand up to pressure calling for U.S. involvement in Iraq's civil war paints an alternative image of himself and other recent Republican presidents.

At last, a consistent foreign policy.

His latest decision not to do anything to help people overthrow oppression remains in line with other foreign policy decisions. When the Soviet government responded with violence to citizens asking for reform, Bush basically said, "It's bad, it's bad." But the president did nothing else other than canceling a superpowers summit where he could have said something to Gorbachev about the crackdown.

When the Chinese violently put down a reformist movement in their country, Bush responded by leaving China on the United States' most favored trading list. And when Chinese Premier Li Peng vigorously defended his crackdown, saying the violence was necessary to suppress "rioting" that he said threatened the country's future, George Bush, the self-proclaimed world's police chief, said nothing at all.

Now in Iraq, Bush has made a vow that he will not let American troops get "bogged down" in a civil war inside Iraq. He maintains the only thing he will do for the Kurds, a group of people he personally encouraged to revolt, is set up a sanctuary where they will be safe.

It is encouraging that Bush has the foresight not to get involved in a civil war. That lesson has been learned. However, it would have been nice if he would have had these same beliefs when he encouraged the Kurds to overthrow Hussein.

This is an instance of a world leader not giving any thought to the possible consequences to his flippant remarks. While the revolution rhetoric was sliding carelessly off his tongue, the Kurds were taking his words seriously and are now paying the price.

Bush's passionate speech about not sending American children (those he used to call America's fighting forces) into a civil war also hides another reason he has not helped the Kurdish revolt. Bush wants the current Iraqi government to remain intact, minus Hussein. If the Kurds overthrow the government of Iraq, and then cannot hold the country together, Iraq could become militant and hostile to the United States, much like Iran. That plays as much into Bush's decision to remain neutral as sending "kids" into a civil war. Bush just doesn't mention that because it doesn't sound as good on the evening news.

And while Bush would like the world to think the aid to the Kurds is for humanitarian reasons, it is simply an effort to make over a massive foreign policy blunder. If Bush cared about Kurdish people, he would have more carefully weighed his decision to prompt them into revolution.

The U.S. and other allies aid should continue to increase so that the money spent trying to save Kurdish lives is proportionate to the amount spent "liberating Kuwait."

That is the only possible way George Bush and his pack of mercenary, lap-dog friends will be able to look at themselves in the mirror every morning.

While the revolution rhetoric was sliding carelessly off his tongue, the Kurds were taking his words seriously and are now paying the price.



LETTERS

Quit denying

Student government elections are right around the corner (April 24) and with Measure 5's impact about to be felt by many of us, I should hope that everyone will take this election very seriously.

Student groups and activities that require money will be in limbo; at the very least, limited in their ability to function. It should be everyone's priority to elect people with integrity and who are trustworthy, especially people who may staff the IFC and make decisions with our money.

The campus community is a microcosm of our national and global community. It is time we all became responsible for our actions, come out of our denial phase, and address the reality that has been looming all along.

It is all of our responsibility to decide whether we will continue to live in fear or take a stand and ask some big questions.

So vote on April 24. As students we need to ensure that the various activities that we are involved in continue to exist and that the people making decisions are people with responsibility and can truly be trusted.

Howard Brotine
Biology

Bom ability

Concerning the Stern and Westlund letter (ODE, Apr. 11) — shame on you.

You have ignored your liberal education and called for Mike Colson to step down because of a petty controversy fueled by his opposition. If every candidate who might rock the ASUO boat were to step down our pathetic student government would sink even deeper into the abyss of partisan absurdity.

The controversy here is not the petty allegation that Colson added four words to a computer file. The real issue here is that an apathetic student body is being skillfully duped by the

savvy politicians in Suite 4.

Colson has always been unpopular with the paper tiger radicals who run this campus. This fabricated scandal is their brutal attempt to crush the first ticket with any possibility of defeating them.

Colson has shown a born ability to withstand the powerful undertow of political correctness on this campus. He has stood for true principle in a bizarre political arena which values conformity and knee-jerk liberalism over critical thought.

Stop letting the "activists" think for you. Get motivated and vote, but vote with your mind instead of following the advice of your misinformed, politically correct peers.

Jeremy Kemp
Mike Walker
Students

Ad-libbed

I am writing this letter in response to the Colson/Grayson campaign ad (ODE, Apr. 11).

In their ad Colson/Barclay accuse Jennifer Bills and Kirk Bailey of bringing friends to Washington, D.C., and the expenses being paid by ASUO. It would have been useful for Colson/Grayson to check the facts before printing their campaign ad.

I did not know Bills prior to the trip, and knew Bailey only professionally due to my involvement in student activities. I also know that two other members of our conference delegation did not know either person prior to the conference.

I believe that I was selected as a representative due to my merits as a student leader. I am a student senator, chairperson of the board of directors of Student Projects Inc. In addition, I am a very active member of the International Student Association. The committee that selected the conference participants paid attention to the diversity and to the personal accomplishments of the applicants.

Needless to say that due to the incorrect information in the

Colson/Grayson ad, I personally will urge all concerned students, including international and minority students, to vote for candidates other than Colson/Grayson.

If this duo cannot be accurate in their campaign ads, how are they going to be accurate as ASUO president and vice president?

I personally believe that the University student body is better off when persons other than Colson/Grayson are in charge of ASUO Executive.

Aila Lehtonen
Graduate

Very tacky

Regarding the very tacky Colson/Grayson ad seen in the personals (ODE, Apr. 11) attacking the USSA lobbying trip that Kirk Bailey and Jennifer Bills participated in:

Perhaps Mike Colson forgets that he was on the committee that approved the trip. Since he had the financial details incorrect, a memory lapse does seem likely.

Or maybe he is just trying to shift attention away from his IFC situation. Either way, I would prefer a president with a little class.

Gina Harris
Romance Languages

He's our man

The organization Young Fascists for Bush (YFFB) is pleased to announce its enthusiastic endorsement of IFC candidate William Gaskill.

We at YFFB believe that Gaskill's campaign embodies the principles we strive for. He is unwavering in his refusal to recognize anyone's viewpoint but his own and his plans to impose his personal moral agenda on the student body at large is particularly admirable.

We certainly hope that Gaskill will clean up this campus of anyone who actually leads a lifestyle dissimilar to his.

Gerald White
Student

Oregon DAILY EMERALD

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Managing Editor	Christopher Blair	News Editor	Chris Bouneff
Editorial Editor	Rob Ward	Editorial Editor	Pat Malach
Politics Editor	Joe Kidd	Sports Editor	Ashley Conklin
Graphics Editor	Mark Ylen	Entertainment Editor	Layne Lakelish
Supplements Editor	Layne Lakelish	Supplements Asst. Ed.	Amy Fredericks
In Touch Editor	Anna Rembecki	Night Editor	Don Peters