

## Cutback brings hope, 5 but not too much

It was a typical President Bush announcement: pre-speech speculation, a national television audience, a presentation delivered in a way that suggests drumbeats and fanfare.

This time, Bush announced a plan for "major" cutbacks in the United States nuclear arsenal. For those accustomed to the creeping lethargy of arms control negotiations, it is a daring plan. But now that the Oval Office is empty and the teleprompters have been turned off, it's time to take stock and assess what benefits Bush's plan will actually bring.

It calls for elimination of all short-range nuclear weapons, be they ground or submarine launched; taking the U.S. strategic bombers off alert and warehousing their weapons; killing the plan to put the MX missile on railroad cars; and withdrawing the ballistic missiles scheduled for destruction by START off alert status.

It is the biggest reduction in nuclear weapons ever proposed by an American president. The plan has the capability of being the symbolic first step toward real peace between the superpowers.

But the cuts Bush proposed are not as sweeping as he would have the American public believe. The Associated Press reports that fewer than 3,000 nuclear weapons — out of the total U.S. arsenal of about 22,000 — are affected, and two-thirds of those were already slated for removal because of obsolescence.

Any change in the U.S.—Soviet nuclear policy, however minute, is welcome. The nature of arms control necessitates slow movement, as mutual distrust precludes slash-it-all affairs. So Bush, admittedly with pressure from Congress and foreign allies, did do something right.

Removal of short-range nukes from Europe has already begun, and Bush took it one step further by proposing elimination of all tactical nuclear weapons from the European theater. These weapons were designed to deter the Soviets from attacking Western Europe — something that is now almost inconceivable. So battlefield nukes in Europe have become an unnecessary, costly program. Final analysis: a money-saving move, nothing more.

Same thing with taking the doomed missiles and bombers off alert. It makes no sense to keep missiles slated for destruction on alert, and satellites and other early-warning systems eliminate the need for rapid response strategic bombers. The weapons still remain, just the cost of keeping them on alert is gone.

The rail-based MX missile system was killed by the Senate on Thursday. Rather than push for an unloved pet project, Bush scrapped it, cloaking it in the excitement of the moment. Analysis: politically motivated.

The "bold and exciting" plan dissolves into a symbolic gesture, trimming the unnecessary fat off the nuclear arsenal while keeping the most destructive weapons systems.

The most telling of Bush's statements was where he forestalled attempts to take money from defense budget cuts and plug it into domestic programs. The proposal, Bush said, might actually cost taxpayers money, though he didn't elaborate. "The peace dividend I seek is not measured in dollars, but in greater security," Bush said.

It's nice to know that some things remain the same. Even in the face of historic change, Bush continues to ignore the domestic issues while casting himself in the role of World Peacemaker. While Bush's proposal signals a possible, significant change in the nuclear arms race, it's time he started looking inward to America's own problems of poverty, national debt, trade imbalance and crime.

C'mon George, close the curtain on the world stage and start making "bold and exciting" statements about America.



## COMMENTARY

# The best of Springfield E-mail



You've seen it on T.V. and you've read about it in the papers. Now, for your entertainment enjoyment — or disgust — the *Oregon Daily Emerald* proudly presents the best of Springfield E-mail.

Because the E-mail is considered written records, it is public property. *Register-Guard* columnist, Don Bishoff requested all of the E-mail from Aug. 3 through Sept. 4 for one of several columns he has written about the entire Human Rights Commission affair. *Emerald* reporter Gerrit Koepping supplied me with copies of the electronic-mail transmissions so that I could pass them on to you.

The transmissions you see here are verbatim excerpts from the correspondence between the council members. Grammar and punctuation errors have not been corrected. It is a little voyeuristic to read other people's E-mail, but it's also darned entertaining.

The whole sordid affair began back in early August when Springfield City Council members Larry Schanz and Ralf Walters became distressed over the appointment of Ron Sinacore to the Human Rights Commission. Walters and Schanz were worried that

Sinacore's liberal views would compromise their hopes of making Springfield a bastion of Christian conservatism. They later conscripted council member Bruce Berg to join them in their "coup."

### In the beginning

**Larry Schanz — Aug. 6.**  
"Perhaps I'm like the reformed drunk who wants to reform everybody else, but I am really discouraged that the Christian community is not more involved in the local governmental processes."

**Ralf Walters — Aug. 6.**  
"I figured everyone, including George (Wojcik) would realize that this guy would be a very strong vocal proponent of the whole agenda, gay rights included, seeing that he's the assistant director of Affirmative action at the U of O. This is a dark day indeed, because they have scored a major victory."  
"It's going to take more involvement than singing against the 'spirits of darkness' if Christians are going to claim or maintain Springfield as their own town."

"STINK STINK, I'm really angry!"

Our story begins with two men who view themselves as being beacons of light in a world of darkness. You see, by virtue of their religious beliefs, Ralf and Larry have been elevated to a morally superior position than the rest of us lowly sinners. Ralf and Larry's superi-

ority allows them to judge others. Therefore they know that homosexuals should not be protected by law — as the rest of us are — from discrimination by employers, landlords etc. They also must know something I don't about the University because they seem to believe that people who work here are intrinsically evil.

Enter Bruce Berg.  
**Bruce Berg — Aug. 7**  
"Based on the guys answer to religious tolerance, I thought he would be a decent candidate (sicouro), but it wasn't until Ralf brought up his occupation at the U of o, (for the final 2) what a devastation he might have on the HRC."

"We're all too used to being entertained and not and not being part of what it means to be a light in the world."

"... so the war continues."

**Seed is planted**  
The plan begins to germinate in the mind of Walters.

**Ralf Walters — Aug. 8.**  
"I would like to propose a radical idea, but one which I think is legally OK. What if when it comes time to ratify our selections for the HRC we decide not to vote for Sinacor. When the vote is taken, we vote no. Then when the shock has dissipated, I make the motion to nominate Melody Kelsay. We take another vote, and with George's changed vote we ap-

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