

Chemical weapons? We'll trade with you

In all the heady drama of President Bush's announcement about the cutting back of nuclear weapons, spectators of Washington politics missed a big indicator that things are business as usual in the Oval Office, despite the crumbling of communism and the easing of world tensions.

Case in point: The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved a bill Thursday that would ban imports for one year of any country that uses chemical or biological weapons, and any company that sells or produces them.

In addition, countries who use chemical weapons would be subject to a whole slew of sanctions, including loss of all foreign and military aid, termination of credit guarantees, loans and high-technology exports, and possible suspension of diplomatic relations.

Sounds good, right? After all, during the gulf war, we feared Saddam Hussein's chemical warfare arsenal the most. Isolating those countries from the rest of the world makes good sense.

The Bush administration doesn't feel that way. Bush bent House lawmakers to his will and got them to include a clause that would allow the president to lift the ban if it would infringe on "national security interests."

The bill was designed to help rid the world of chemical weapons through the use of economic pressure, not military means. Once powerful, the bill is now just a hollow shell, gutted by a cynical administration jealous of any attempt by Congress to take part in foreign policy matters.

There can be no doubt the bill was directed at Iraq, who used chemical weapons on Kurdish refugees several years ago, and since Iraq is currently under U.N. sanctions for pretty much the same thing, the issue is one for the back burner. But future considerations warrant a strong measure like the one Congress proposed, and Bush shot down.

Ronald Reagan opposed a similar bill during his administration, saying it would prevent him from showing support for Iraq during its 1980-88 conflict with Iran. Bush, with an eye toward the future, is saying the same thing.

Remember Syria? Hotbed of terrorism, scourge to the United States? Well, we're friends now. And Iraq, the country we supported even after it killed 37 of our sailors aboard the U.S.S. Stark? Well, we don't like them anymore.

Persian Gulf politics are, at best, confusing. Bush, with his cavalier attitude toward friends and enemies, makes them no better. With George at the controls, the gulf takes on the look of a schoolyard squabble: "Let's be pals" one day, "I hate you" the next.

With his latest victory over Congress, Bush has reserved himself the right to flip-flop U.S. relations on a whim.

"Enemies" of the United States, take heart. If you want the Great Satan on your side, just get in a nice regional conflict and pop some mustard gas. Uncle Sam's cavalry will be charging over the hill before you know it.



LETTERS

Glorifies

What I want to know is — why are greeks so offended by the *Oscar the Freshman* (ODE, Sept. 25) portrayal of them, when so many of them wear sweatshirts and t-shirts that joke about and/or brag about their beer busts?

Weasel's World has presented much the same picture of greeks, and so far I haven't seen or heard any complaints about it. Could that be because *Weasel* glorifies the behavior (as the sweatshirts do) rather than condemns it?

Debra Day
Psychology

Fairweather fans

I was at the Oregon-USC football game last Saturday night. I was disappointed with the behavior of some of the people in the crowd.

Near the end of the game, a man behind me decided that it was necessary to verbally assault the quarterback for his "poor performance." He shouted that Danny O'Neil had "given the game away" and that he "should be benched," along with many other derogatory comments. I don't know exactly how much O'Neil heard, but the look on his face suggested that he felt bad

enough about the game without the personal insults.

The unnecessary roughness of this particular "fan" showed a lack of sensitivity that embarrassed me. The players work hard and don't deserve to be cursed at for their mistakes. If you, as a fan, are unhappy with the performance of the team, or if you are not at the game to support your team, win or lose, then stay home and swear at your television.

If it is hard enough for the football players to play some of the teams that they face — they should not have to play against the fans, too. Poor sportsmanship makes the game an uncomfortable place for both the players and the other fans.

R.J. Gillespie
Eugene

Filth monkeys

After a joyous summer filled with warm sunshine, loving rainbows, brotherly love and buzzing bees, I returned to the University in hopes of spreading my internal joy to my fellow people.

Alas, my dream has died and my joy is now replaced with rage and disbelief that our community has allowed a gang of irreverent vandals and hoodlums come back in an evil manifestation of a television shown as *Our Version of Hell*.

When I read of their expulsion from the airwaves last August in the *Register-Guard*, I was overjoyed. Their poisonous toxins and their politically incorrect filth was gone. Now these filth monkeys are back every Thursday night on Channel 11. I urge you to watch at least once and I guarantee you feel as repulsed as I do whenever I see one of their obscene flyers.

Liberals unite! Disband these festering termites from our house of tranquility before they destroy all of our society's moral fibers.

Jerod Hume
Student

Harassment

Why is the *Oregon Daily Emerald* encouraging harassment? A front-page article (ODE, Sept. 27) notes violent attacks but gives no description of the attackers. The *Register-Guard* did the same.

Bob Jones
Freshman

