

PERSPECTIVES

Editor in chief: Jack Clifford
 Managing Editor: Jessica Blanchard
 Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
 P.O. box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
 E-mail: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

EDITORIAL EDITOR: MICHAEL J. KLECKNER opededitor@journalist.com

"Peace In Our Time?" Don't Count On It



CAPTAIN SENSIBLE

PAT PAYNE

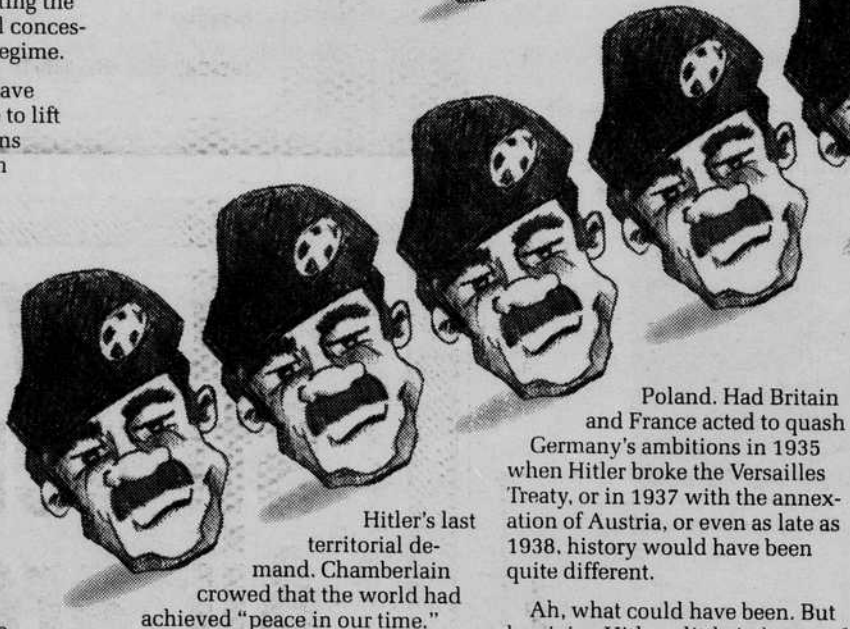
It has been nine years since a coalition of nations, led by the United States and Britain, laid low an Iraqi army that had invaded Kuwait. It has been at least eight years since sanctions were placed on Iraq because of Saddam Hussein's intransigence concerning the fulfillment of the terms of an armistice. Hussein has repeatedly prevented authorities from doing their jobs. Yet, there is no rush to resume the war or at least tighten Hussein's leash. No, we can't do that — he's got oil. And France, Russia and other coalition members see profit in lifting the sanctions and gaining oil concessions from the Hussein regime.

The last few months have seen increasing pressure to lift the sanctions from nations that stand to benefit from trade with Iraq. In fact, France and Russia feel so strongly about lifting the embargo that they have been flying supplies to Iraq without United Nations approval. Even in the United States, think tanks like the American Enterprise Institute are encouraging us to appease Hussein a little, so that he'll give a little back.

We would be foolish to lift the sanctions. To do so may invite war. World leaders of Hussein's temperament don't play games of compromise. Do you really think that by letting him back into the world community and

giving him what he wants, he'll behave? Well then, let's do the time warp again.

In September of 1938, leaders of arguably the four most powerful nations in Europe met in Munich, Germany, to discuss tensions regarding the Sudeten region of Czechoslovakia. Neville Chamberlain, then the British Prime Minister, and his French opposite number, Edouard Daladier, both of whom were anxious to avoid a general European war, decided to give Hitler the region. They fervently hoped that the Sudetenland would be



Bryan Dixon Emerald

Hitler's last territorial demand. Chamberlain crowed that the world had achieved "peace in our time."

Only six months later, German troops marched into Prague, totally dismembering Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain's peace would last less than one year. On September 1, 1939, German armies invaded

Poland. Had Britain and France acted to quash Germany's ambitions in 1935 when Hitler broke the Versailles Treaty, or in 1937 with the annexation of Austria, or even as late as 1938, history would have been quite different.

Ah, what could have been. But by giving Hitler a little in hopes of avoiding battle, what we got was a worse conflict. And appeasement forever entered the lexicon as a code word for kowtowing to a dictator's demands for fear of war or for hope of profits.

And, again, we're back to appeasement. Hussein is a new Hitler, writ somewhat smaller. After the Gulf War, Iraq signed an armistice which forced it to give up its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons capabilities. Hussein refused access to United Nations inspectors sent to check on Iraq's weaponry and shuffled the stockpiles around the country. This was a blatant violation of the armistice agreement, and the U.N. reacted by imposing economic sanctions on the country.

I know there are those of you who would argue, and rightfully so, that Hussein is being harmed very little by the embargo, and that it is the citizenry who must take the brunt of the hardship. However, there is little else that

we can do other than form another coalition and invade Iraq to force Hussein to destroy his weapons.

The thing that we cannot do, as cruel as it is to say, is lift the sanctions. We can bring in medical supplies for the people, but we can't allow another dinar to enter Hussein's coffers until he decides to follow the agreement he signed. Lifting the sanctions, removing the U.N. inspectors and hoping Hussein will behave is the same kind of bury-your-head-in-the-sand thinking Chamberlain displayed.

When dealing with tyrants, "peace in our time" isn't. The world should have learned that after Hitler.

Pat Payne is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. He can be reached at Macross_SD@hotmail.com.

Bringing back the Bicycle Taxi would benefit us all

GUEST COMMENTARY

Ben Andrews

Fun, free, environmentally responsible transportation for all. Sounds pretty good, eh? For the last two and a half years, the Bicycle Taxi provided just that kind of service to the University community.

After the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, David Niles, a bicycle enthusiast, brought the program to the University. He came to Eugene because he saw the importance of bicycles to this city, and he wanted to make responsible transportation even more accessible. The Department of Public Safety (OPS at that time) adminis-

trates transportation issues on campus, and thus David Niles' Bicycle Taxi program was placed under its jurisdiction.

At the end of spring term 2000, David Niles left OPS, and since then, the Bicycle Taxi has been unable to provide a valuable and needed transportation alternative to students. The taxi benefits all members of the University.

Last year, students who need to be picked up from the Greyhound or Amtrak stations could call Bicycle Taxi and have a ride within 15 minutes. The taxi provided an alternative to the other university transportation services, such as DDS and Saferide. When Bicycle Taxi was operating, students who were not intoxicated yet tempted to call DDS for a ride home could choose to call the taxi. Students who would opt to call Saferide

also had an alternative in the Bicycle Taxi. Because the use of these two valuable programs is extensive and there can often be a wait before pick-up, many students came to rely upon the Bicycle Taxi for their evening commutes.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the Bicycle Taxi program was that it provided service during the day. This daytime service was primarily for injured or disabled students who had difficulty making it on time from one class to the next. The taxi was the only program that could assist these students. Now, without the program, injured and disabled students have little or no assistance to and from their classes and homes.

The most attractive part of reinstating the Bicycle Taxi program is

that the University already has the pedicab. The pedicab, last year's most visible piece of the program, is the big, yellow super-tricycle that transported small groups of students all over Eugene. Many students enjoyed riding the pedicab, which was easier to ride than a tandem or triplet bicycle and was thought by more than few to resemble a romantic carriage.

When former Bicycle Taxi employees and riders learned that the program would no longer be running, an effort was started to bring the program back. The Bicycle Taxi Advocates have been meeting regularly to re-establish the taxi. Now we are asking for your support. On Thursday and Friday, Nov. 16 and 17, we will be tabling in the EMU Amphitheater. At this time, we will have a statement of support available for you

to sign.

Only with your support can we convince the department that owns the pedicab of the importance of the Bicycle Taxi to the University community. Let's make sure that the pedicab is used for its intended purpose: providing fun, free, environmentally responsible transportation to all.

Ben Andrews is a geology student and a member of Bicycle Taxi Advocates.

CORRECTION

Junior fencing club member Jason Washburn was misidentified in an article on club sports ["Hockey skates by Idaho with ease," ODE, Nov. 15]. The Emerald regrets the error.