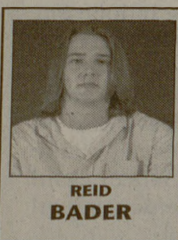


THE BATTALION

U.S. not only place in the world

Bush shows inability to compromise in toxic weapons discussions

Once again, the United States has shown its contempt for the global community. The Bush administration's decision to pull out of talks designed to establish a plan to enforce the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention further reflects the Bush administration's all take, no give negotiating attitude.



REID BADER

The 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention was set up to ban the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological weapons. However, when the Biological and Toxin Weapons accord was signed 30 years ago, no means was created to enforce the agreement. This accord was accepted and ratified by more than 140 countries, including the United States.

For the last seven years, a group of negotiators representing 55 countries has been working to find a way to make the accord enforceable. According to analysts, because the United States has dropped out of these talks, any biological weapons agreement will be worthless.

Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer said, "Those countries which have reservations about it will hide behind the American decision. They'll wipe the sweat from their brows with relief."

U.S. negotiator Donald A. Mahley has said the reason the United States withdrew from the discussions was that Washington could not accept how the accord was written and that no amount of discussion would lead to a resolution the United States could accept.

The United States says the accord is unacceptable because it fears other countries might try to take advantage of the opportunity to explore

United States research and technology concerned with biological weapons, thus the accord would pose a great threat to national security.

This logic is greatly flawed. The issue is not the United States or the Bush administration wanting to protect national security, but the United States being stubborn and not wanting to commit to an enforceable treaty that means it would have to answer to other countries on an absolute issue.

The convention is not that great of a risk. None of the other 55 countries involved in the negotiations have felt that their interests are so greatly threatened that they must totally withdraw from negotiations.

Tibor Toth, chair of the talks to enforce the 1972 accord, said, "It's clear that we cannot do business as usual. No country has supported the conclusion put forward by the U.S., and all have expressed disappointment."

Mahley also said there is a feeling in the White House that any new accord will do nothing to stop the proliferation of biological weapons. Why this feeling would exist is hard to understand.

In the case of missile defense, proliferation was stalled for many years until the United States decided to violate it. Perhaps there is the feeling in Washington that if this accord is signed, then the United States might have to stick to it.

These talks are the chance for the United States to show the world that it is a willing player in the international community. With the rejection of the Kyoto Protocol and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Bush administration has created an 800-pound gorilla, who goes where it wants and takes what it wants to take.

The Bush administration should be encouraged realize that one must negotiate to be a

successful global player.

Negotiation does not include leaving if things do not go your way. It is giving a little and getting a little. Perhaps if the United States decides to give a little on the idea that the rest of the world is after its technology, as is the

case here, then maybe the threat of biological warfare can be dropped and make the world a lot safer for everyone.

Reid Bader is a junior political science major.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Ripken's upcoming retirement to be mourned

It is not uncommon for people to wear insults as a badge of honor. As President George W. Bush was on his first European tour in June, a French newspaper characterized him as the "Three-B Man," standing for "Bible, baseball and barbecue." The name was meant as a half-serious insult, but it has a nice ring to it. In fact, "Bible, baseball and barbecue" might be as appealing a definition of the good life as exists. Whatever one thinks of the other two, baseball is finally back in full swing.

There has been some great drama this season, from the Seattle Mariners' success without any superstars to the resurgence of Kerry



JONATHAN JONES

Wood. Forget about another possible lockout next spring, outrageous salaries (especially for a certain Texas shortstop) and the Montreal Expos for a moment. One of truly good guys of America's favorite pastime is about to end his career in the major leagues.

Few have hurled insults at Cal Ripken during his 21-year career with the Baltimore Orioles. He never provided ammunition. Since he arrived in the majors in 1981, Ripken has been an all-American success story. Fans and writers like to focus on Ripken breaking Lou Gehrig's consecutive game streak of 2,130, once thought to be the sport's most unbeatable. He then played an incredible 501 additional games before voluntarily benching himself. Such an accomplishment is a great tribute to the type of work ethic that made America without an equal in the

and 400 home runs. He was Rookie of the Year in 1982 and League MVP in 1983, the same year he led Baltimore to a World Series victory. He has started 19 consecutive All-Star games, winning the MVP this year.

In 1991, he hit a record 12 straight homers in the Home Run Derby. Ripken is beyond just an everyday worker who does not skip work. Instead, he is a genuine Hall-of-Famer, the forerunner for power hitting shortstops such as Nomar Garciaparra and Derek Jeter.

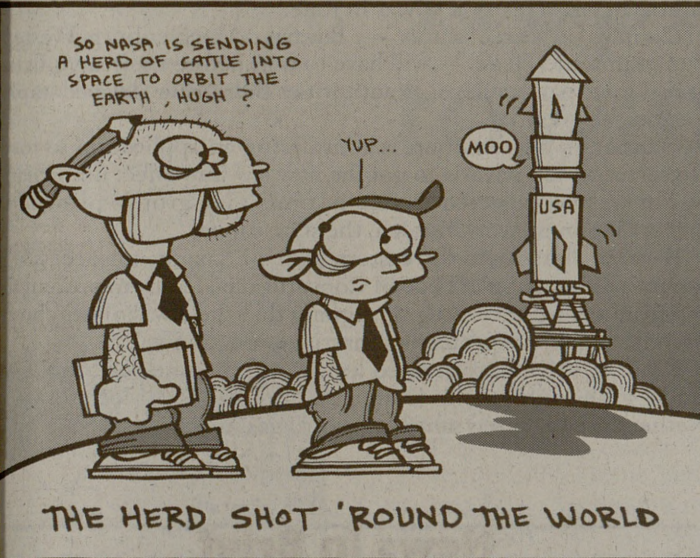
Ripken could have gotten away with being an arrogant prima donna. But he did not. He went to work, did community service projects, signed autographs and went home to his family. In a time of Jerry Jones, Michael Irvin and the Gold Club trial, he just played ball. Baseball players are among the luckiest men alive,

playing a child's game and getting paid handsomely for it. Some men are spoiled too easily by the fruits their natural ability can bring. One can only imagine the heights a Mickey Mantle or Mike Tyson could have achieved with Ripken's drive and determination.

After the 1994 baseball strike, many fans rightfully turned away from the game. Ripken is one of the few professional athletes you cannot help but like and admire. So take a moment to catch him in action before he retires at the end of the season. The curtain is about to close on one of the few guys to whom no one really could hurl an insult toward from the safety of the stands. Baseball was lucky to have him.

Jonathan Jones is a senior political science major.

CARTOON OF THE DAY



THE UNCARTOONIST

Lawyer-client privilege no joke

(U-WIRE) — Q: What do you call 5,000 dead lawyers at the bottom of the ocean?
A: A good start.

I think the jokes are beginning to get to the lawyers. The American Bar Association will begin its annual meeting Wednesday in Chicago, where the organization will reconsider a rule that dates back to Elizabeth I. Lawyers have long been an easy target, affording us all a good chuckle from time to time. Most lawyers even have a few zingers of their own, just to show they're good sports.

Q: How can you tell when lawyers are lying?
A: Their lips are moving.

The agenda for this week's meeting has me worried, though. Lawyers may be more sensitive than we thought. The ABA will reevaluate its ethics rules for lawyers, considering several proposals that would water down the standards of attorney-client privilege. Tuesday's *New York Times* reported the proposed changes would allow lawyers to disclose clients'

secrets to prevent fraud, injury or death.

I know that sounds good — nobody likes to be the one opposing the prevention of fraud, injury or death. The current ABA guidelines already allow attorneys to reveal their clients' information "to prevent the client from committing a crime that is likely to result in imminent death or substantial bodily harm." The proposal seeks to tweak the wording so that lawyers can blow the whistle to stop their clients from causing "reasonably certain death and substantial bodily harm."

The difference seems almost indistinguishable to most of us, but in the legal world, the devil is in the details. As the rule stands, an attorney can act if his or her client, say, announces a plan to alter the brakes on a witness' car. Or, for example, if a client leaves a lawyer's office in a rage, with a gun in hand. Following the current code, if an attorney for a cell phone manufacturer is given an internal study that shows that the

product may cause cancer, the attorney cannot release that information.

The *Times* reported that the change in phrasing could have come into play in past or ongoing cases involving tobacco, asbestos and defective tires. The public seems to have a growing discomfort with the fact that our justice system is centered around the accused. That discomfort is a luxury that comes with our national inclination to take due process for granted. The protections we enjoy are safeguards from a type of government abuse that many of us simply cannot fathom, but history has proven that complacency in benevolent government is just the fertile ground that abuse of power needs to bloom.

Attorneys are meant to represent their clients and defend their rights. If people cannot trust that communications with their attorneys are confidential, the result is an erosion of the attorney-client relationship in favor of the relationship be-

tween lawyers and the accusers. This country has set up an adversarial system that is the best in the world at protecting the innocent and uncovering truth. If lawyers cannot truly represent their clients, that system has shaken the balance that was created to make it fair.

Sometimes this system creates ethical quandaries that add to the law profession's dubious reputation. And even as they will likely share a few one-liners at the convention this week, the attorneys must be silently steaming over their popular mistreatment.

So let us all cry a tear for the lawyers' collective self-esteem, and hope they don't decide to corrode justice over a few bad jokes.

Q: What's wrong with lawyer jokes?
A: Lawyers don't think they're funny, and nobody else thinks they're jokes.

Daphne Retter
Daily Egyptian
Southern Illinois University

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