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## Open your mind to concept of peace Nations move away from waging war to achieve ends

Conflicts are as much a part of this world as political rhetoric and usually just as senseless.

I, along with most of the planet, was stunned to learn of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's decision to bury the hatchet — I mean Uzi — with Israel. In simplest terms, it seems that ol' Yasser Arafat just had a change of heart — not too unlike changing the oil in a rusty station wagon.



FRANK STANFORD  
Columnist

it to begin with. But that just can't be, can it? If battles and conquering land are unacceptable methods of obtaining a nation, then Colorado should still be northern Mexico, and we would all be vacationing in Crested Butte to see the bullfights and drink Tecate.

Actually, "we" wouldn't be here at all unless the Apaches decided to grant us tourist visas from England — which by the way would not be England were it not conquered centuries ago by brave fighting men with the desire to live there and till the soil. We owe our great country to shear guts and determination in bloody battles against England.

world, world laws seem to go overwhelmingly in our favor.

It is sad to say, but were the Palestinians the finest military force who did the world's fighting for it, Israel would still be Palestine, and American Jews would be treated even less fairly than they are now. And if we suppose that the United States was not the mightiest nation, it's likely that our involvements in Vietnam and Korea would have been looked upon as unnecessary interventions into world order. Consequently, we would've been stopped by whomever the world's policeman was at the time.

OK, you say. Maybe so. But good grief, Stanford. What a ridiculous speculation. How about checkin' into reality for a change?

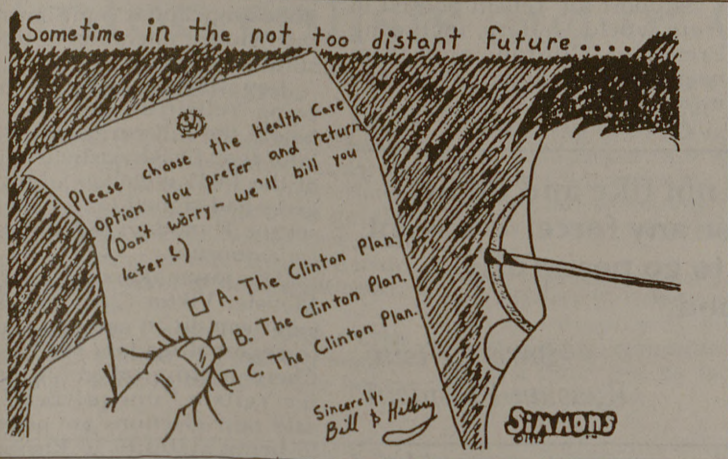
Well, you have a point. It is ridiculous to think of the United States as a second rate superpower, China as the world's leading economic contender, Cuba as the playground of North America, Irish and British kids playing together, or Japan on the verge of bankruptcy. It's just plain silly to think that the Russkies — haters of moms, God and Chevys who almost never eat chicken fried steak — could actually be our friends.

We feel sorry for them now, for cryin' out loud. It's sillier still to imagine Jews and Arabs actually shaking hands over anything.

Peace seems to be breaking out all over. Boundaries and leaders are always changing, so we must try to be open minded to the most utterly ridiculous possibilities.

Like burying the Uzi.

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy major



## EDITORIAL

### U.N. intervention U.S. can't bear brunt of effort

The United Nations is poised to engage in a large-scale peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A response is warranted, but America must refuse any preeminent role in the effort to bring peace to the region. The members of the United Nations, this reputed coalition of countries, must equitably band together to fight this battle.

The United States has a history of contributing the majority of the effort in these police actions. In Bosnia this misguided tradition is bound to continue unless the United States puts a stop to it. Any action in Bosnia promises to be a bloody, lengthy war of attrition.

At the center of this crisis are the Muslims, the Serbs and the Croats, each vying to claim land for their own people. Ceasefires and treaties have constantly failed in the two years since the current unrest erupted.

The people have suffered severe human rights violations as well, with practices such as "ethnic cleansing" bearing a frightening resemblance to

those of Nazi Germany.

The United Nations was chartered after World War II to act as a world police force that would intervene in times of crisis. Since then, United Nations peacekeeping forces have served in every decade and nearly every region of the world.

The tragedy in Bosnia has no end in sight. A meeting between the three warring factions, the European Community and U.N. moderators Sept. 20 produced no results. With a diplomatic stalemate firmly in place, the United Nations is now planning to intervene.

Right now the United States is planning for the United States to provide at least half the troops of any peacekeeping force. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, however, has stated that U.S. personnel will comprise no more than 50 percent of the required manpower.

The conflict in Bosnia is not America's war to fight alone. Rather, it is a battle to be waged by all nations in a united effort.

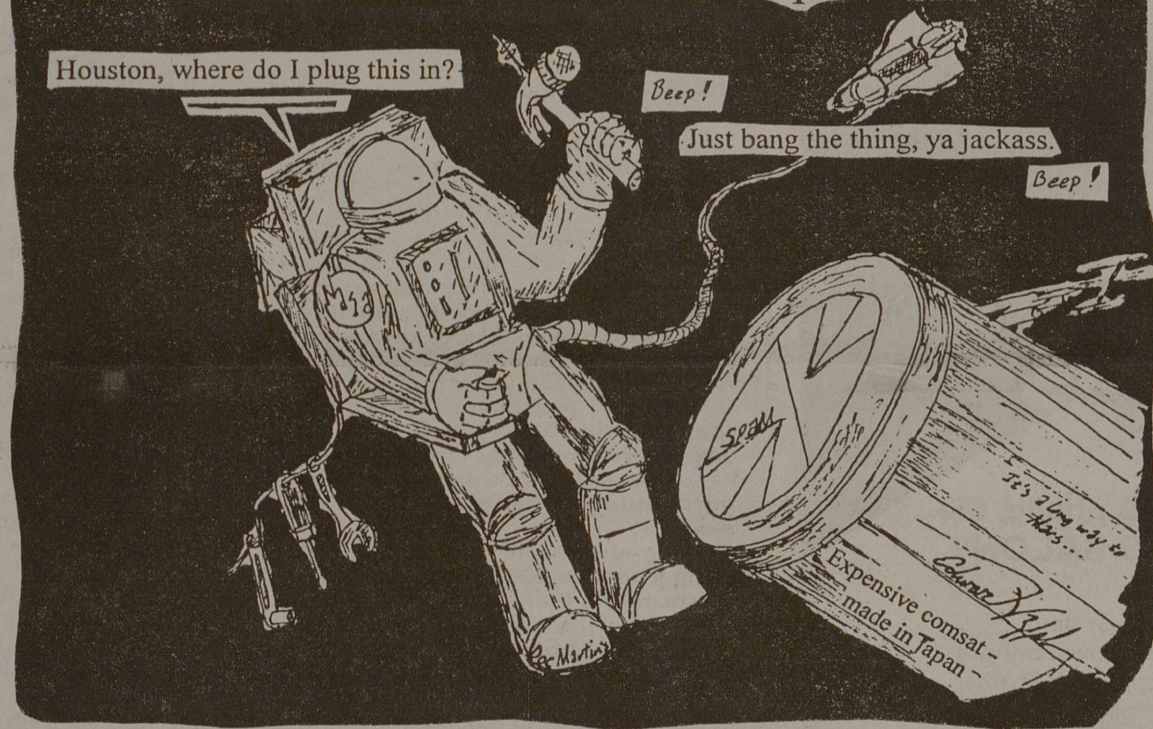
Although Arafat's agreement with Israel's prime minister wasn't exactly what each side has been striving for, the compromise with specific parcels of inhabited land is not only a major event of the last 50 years, but marks a significant occurrence in world history as well.

Why did one of the most powerful terrorist leaders in the universe suddenly go soft? Did a six-year-old, teary-eyed Jewish girl give him a cute little puppy or something?

Arabs and Jews have always been at each other's throats, particularly since the modern state of Israel was proclaimed in 1948.

The Jewish people deserve the land for which they've fought — the same land which was formerly Palestine. Of course, the same land was formerly Israeli if we go back in time far enough. So, when deciding who owns a country, the question really is whose land was

## NASA astronaut tests new space tools



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**The Battalion - Mail Call**  
 013 Reed McDonald  
 Mail stop 1111  
 Texas A&M University  
 College Station, TX 77843  
 Fax: (409) 845-2647

## U.S. troops roam Somalia, yet slaughter in Bosnia continues

The term "another Vietnam" has been used so often and so loosely in the past as to make it almost meaningless.

Ironically, there is no more appropriate time to use it than now, with Somalia quickly becoming a quagmire from which the Clinton administration stubbornly refuses to escape.

Our misled intervention into a country with a long standing distrust of foreigners began as a "humanitarian mission" — George Bush's farewell to the country. Perhaps Bush saw entering Somalia as a way of avoiding entanglement with Bosnia. Instead, his assurances that our involvement would be minimal and



TONI GARRARD CLAY  
Assistant editor

strictly humanitarian have become more pathetically laughable than when first uttered.

Enter President Clinton. The man who in his youth vigorously protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam has refused to consider a congressional action moving our troops out of Somalia because withdrawal would "be viewed internationally as a sign of American weakness."

Now, American soldiers, along with Pakistani U.N. forces, have killed over 100 Somalis in pursuit of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid. In light of the fact that CNN reporters obtained multiple interviews with Aidid, his ability to evade our finest military minds is puzzling.

Sadly, the death toll among Aidid's human shield includes not only soldiers but women and children. Such tragedies are common in almost any military action. What makes it particularly senseless, however, is the reality that we are fighting a war in which the United States has virtually no interests.

In stark contrast to this is our refusal to intervene in Bosnia. Whether our current stance on Bosnia is right or wrong is not the issue. The issue is the hypocrisy of the United States' involvement in Somalia while firmly rebuffing Bosnian aid requests.

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While we attempt to locate Somali warlord Aidid in connection with the deaths of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers, Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, orchestrator of mass murders and rape camps, has been negotiating formally with us Geneva.

In addition, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, asking for our assistance, was told by Clinton to expect no help. Izetbegovic must wonder why his country was not deemed worthy of the humanitarian intervention afforded Somalia.

If Bosnia is considered to be outside of our interests, why then is Somalia so different?

Adding fuel to the already significant level of frustration felt among many Americans is a sense that the United Nations would be more appropriately named the United States and Friends.

The original intent of bringing in U.N. forces to Somalia was to free American troops from singular military involvement. Instead of easing out our troops, the United States has taken on the role of a United Nations strike force with authorization to shoot first and ask questions later. So much for humanitarian intervention.

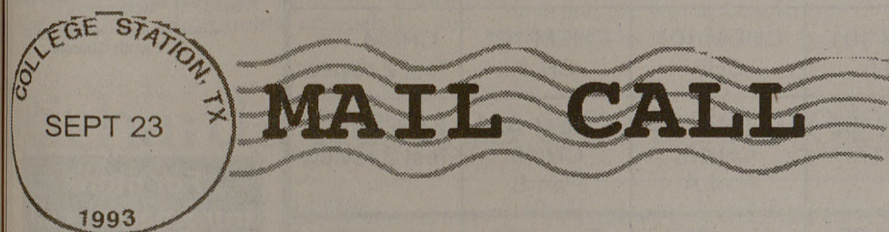
The Pentagon has said that our involvement in Somalia will continue until 1995. Few believed Bush's "back by Christmas" scenario when he painted it;

fewer still visualized us serving under U.N. command for years.

As one historian purportedly said, the Clinton administration believes foreign policy is about helping the weak. In fact, foreign policy is about containing the strong who threaten our interests. With, at last count, four Americans dead and 43 wounded, it makes one question Clinton's naming Somalia a "crucial American outpost." Crucial to whom?

Our involvement in Somalia is ridiculous. If we were really there for the reasons being given, we would also be in Bosnia and a dozen other countries that could use a helping hand. A lack of consistency in American foreign policy is certainly nothing new. This time, however, an administration's stubborn refusal to recognize the lessons of history could see us reliving a chapter many would like to forget.

Toni Garrard Clay is a senior speech communication major



### Screw the NCAA — screw the Batt, too

This letter is in response to the Sept. 21 Battalion editorial. This whole thing about the NCAA has gotten too far out of hand. What is so wrong with paying collegiate athletes to play a sport?

Just think of the millions of dollars that our football team brings in not only to the University but also this city. You

can't get a hotel reservation within 50 miles for a home game. Things have gotten so ridiculous that college athletes cannot go out and even get summer jobs for fear of NCAA retaliation.

I'm sorry, but I don't think that A&M should just "accept the consequences" like the editorial stated. I've got news for whoever wrote this editorial. College is expensive. Scholarships just don't cut it anymore. The cost of living is outrageous. I ask you, what harm comes from giving five players a little spending money?

If an alumnus were to give an average student money, it would be considered a "scholarship." However, if that student is an athlete, it is a violation of NCAA policy. I say screw the NCAA!

As to your comment that it is disgraceful for the Interim President Dr. E. Dean Gage to be angered about the actions taken by the NCAA, I say screw you, too! Dr. Gage has every right to be angry. Texas A&M spent valuable time and money concentrating efforts to reach a fair and just punishment for a crime which should not be. Then, for the NCAA to come in and overrule A&M shows that they only want to flex their muscles a little. The NCAA has to let everyone know that they are still in charge. Yeah, right!

If the editors of The Battalion really feels this way then maybe they should go work for The Daily Texan.

Joel L. Dunn  
Graduate student

### Bad idea to privatize A&M Food Services

I am amazed at the attitude that some students seem to have on the idea of privatizing parts of A&M's food service operation. As much as anyone, I would like to see better quality and lower prices but this is not what privatization will get us. It is unquestionably against our interest to privatize.

Privatization means that a contractor will run food service for a profit — his profit. He can do this by becoming more "efficient" — i.e. hiring workers for less and cutting costs. Naturally, he expects to make a profit or he wouldn't be in the business. Or, perhaps he has a more efficient and technologically superior means of producing the product.

In the case of burgers and fries, I doubt that the contractor has all that

much of a technological advantage over what we have now. The method most contractors prefer on a short term contract is to milk the capital equipment and facilities for all their worth and to limit maintenance.

Why do we want a third-party to make a profit from us? Wouldn't it be better for us, the University, to make any changes in the existing operation without selling the farm? By selling a part, we lose the benefit of the whole. Privatization is simply a short-term answer to a long-term challenge.

The contractor will make a profit. Why does that money have to go away from the University into a corporation's account? Why can't that money be reinvested here? Finally, why doesn't the Student Senate start acting in our best interests?

Paul Deignan  
Class of '94