

# History in danger of repeating itself in Bosnia

Last Wednesday's NATO airstrikes against the Bosnian Serb positions surrounding Sarajevo were long overdue.

**ADAM HILL**  
COLUMNIST



to take that big artillery broom and sweep those lower life forms, like the Bosnian Muslims and Croats, out of the house. It doesn't matter if the Muslims and Croats make up over 80 percent of the population. Forget about 'em.

World War II. Unbelievable.

It seems that whenever we think we've learned from history and that ethnic cleansing and mass genocide are all part of the past, history turns right around and bites us in the ass.

Now, once again, we are faced with unspeakable crimes against humanity.

Some people believe that we should look the other way — but I think we should do something.

The 100 NATO warplanes that bombed the Serbs were a good start.

It got the Serbs' attention, and the word is, airstrikes like this one might bring the Serbs to the peace table.

If it doesn't, then maybe the United Nations should lift the 1991 arms embargo imposed on the former republic of Yugoslavia when hostilities broke out.

This would give the Croats and Muslims better weapons and a decent chance to defend themselves.

But even in the face of airstrikes and the possible lifting of the embargo, Serbian Gen. Ratko Mladic has remained defiant and apathetic to peace talks.

Regardless of what Mladic does, the world is aware of the atrocities being committed and will not just sit back and do nothing.

That happened once. And now we have an image of a little girl, fully conscious, strapped to a table so a Nazi doctor could break her legs to study the effects of patient trauma.

The screams of that little girl and all the holocaust victims of World War II will haunt generations forever. Let's not add to that thunder by let-

ting these atrocities continue in Bosnia. When the wars are over, we don't want to discover another scream like the one I imagine from that young girl. But it may be too late. That's why we have to act.

If the Serbs don't get the message with the airstrikes then we should take further action.

We need to send a message that is powerful enough to prevent these atrocities from occurring ever again.

It can be done. It has to be done.

If the Serbs insist on killing innocent people in the name of ethnic cleansing, then they must be prepared for the consequences.

Forget about airstrikes and UN peacekeepers, I know a couple of Marine artillery regiments that could show the Serbs the true meaning of the "King of Battle."

Don't believe me? Just ask the Iraqis.

*Adam Hill is a junior history major*



## Clinton slides once more

The British have a way with English — I guess it has something to do with the fact that the language originated from them.

**DAVID TAYLOR**  
COLUMNIST



ing Serb-held positions throughout Bosnia in an attempt to prove that, gosh, we really mean it this time.

The latest offering of new vocabulary comes from The Economist, a popular British newsmagazine.

"Clindcision: A political decision or appointment, not necessarily the right one, which is put off until, and often beyond, the final moment it can be made, the delaying of which can cause damage to the decider, the appointee and the country."

Yep, our president has a real way with policy decisions.

I like to call the evolution of a President Clinton policy "the politics of mudsliding."

Mudslides, in the immortal words of ESPN's Dan Patrick, "... can't be stopped, they can only be contained."

In other words, events carry the Clinton team down the side of the mountain, and when he finally gets to the bottom, President Clinton's spin doctors all cry out, "See, we told you the president knew the way down the hill."

Bosnia is only the latest example of mudslide leadership.

After experiencing about 42 different American policy shifts, the Serbs weren't totally convinced the United States meant business when President Clinton declared, "Stop, or else."

For some reason, American policy declarations held no credibility for the Bosnian Serbs.

It's similar to my professor who said in all solemnity, "The test material will come only from your text," has complete credibility in my eyes.

(For you freshman: if your professor said this last week, look in your student handbook under "Questions" for instructions on what to do next.)

Send in a few planes. Knock out a few tanks.

Quick and painless ... and watch the opinion polls soar.

However, "limited warfare" is a contradiction in terms.

The way to conduct warfare should be more like Gen. Colin Powell's Gulf War strategy of overwhelming force, i.e. "How many do we need?"

President Clinton's Bosnia (and Somalia) strategy of "How few can we get away with?" is a sure-fire way to ride the mudslide into unnecessary involvements — and losses.

This mess reminds me of the 1992 presidential campaign when candidate Clinton declared his unwavering support

for Haitian refugees and his contempt for the present policy.

A few months later, President-elect Clinton was shocked to learn that Haiti's beaches were filled with boats under construction. So when he took office, Clinton ordered all Haitian boat people detained and then sent to processing centers. And finally, Clinton reverted to the very policy he blasted in the first place.

**Clindcision: A political decision which is put off until the final moment it can be made.**

Then the press secretary pointed and said, "Look. We fixed the Haitian refugee problem."

No, you mean gravity once again brought us to the bottom of the mountain.

Unfortunately, half the mountain came down with the mudslide, and, once again, American lives were put on the line because of the irresponsible leadership of the Clinton administration.

Domestic mudslides can happen too.

Back when Clinton was inaugurated in 1992, the president tried to ram through a "stimulus" package to "jump start" the American economy.

For some unknown reason, the Republican leadership didn't feel like expanding the federal deficit by \$16-odd billion to fix something that really wasn't broken.

So, the Republicans filibustered in the Senate and the package went down.

Next thing you know, the economy takes a turn for the better for some strange reason.

Sure enough, the president's press people saturated the media, bragging, "Hey, look what we did."

Yep, you landed at the bottom of the mountain in a big pile of mud.

I wonder if the British have a word for mudslides?

*David Taylor is a senior management major*

## Caring for our tired, poor

Excuses for not getting involved in Bosnia hypocritical

The haunting images won't go away. Bosnia won't go away. War won't go away. We read about NATO airstrikes, about negotiations. We see photographs of innocent people who are victims. We see the bloodshed and the mayhem, and we don't know what to do.

**ERIN HILL**  
COLUMNIST



federal relief to the victims of that tragedy. It made it through the House and the Senate with nary a problem.

After all, who doesn't want to help the victims in Oklahoma? No one, that's who.

The little stinger was that they decided to finance the relief by cutting the heating subsidies to people in cold-weather states, such as Minnesota and Illinois. What they must have forgotten is that people on welfare are barely able to pay their heating bills as it is.

Cutting subsidies means that heat will be turned off. Cutting heat in cold places means that people could die. People dying means we are not

**All that talk about helping our own people first seems to be just another bit of what we could call the rhetoric of hypocrisy. We say one thing but intend to do another.**

really taking care of our own. Senators Paul Wellstone, D-MN, and Carol Mosely-Braun, D-IL, being from cold states and in the know, voted against the bill.

This move, if you can believe it, made them very unpopular. Some even called them unpatriotic and worse, just because they couldn't, in good faith, allow people to freeze to death.

Why should their votes make them the Capitol Hill pariahs? In a country that really cared about its citizens, those votes would garner more respect.

Of course, no one should have to vote against aid to the victims in Oklahoma City. There's the problem, in a proverbial nutshell — the lawmakers, and the constituents they represent, are pitting humans against humans.

The better question is, why should relief money have to come out of welfare funding, instead of, say defense funds? Or federal aid to the University of Texas?

We shouldn't have to rob Peter to pay Paul. Both Peter and Paul are entitled to a roof over their heads and heat during the wintertime. We ought to rob Mr. Military-Industrial Complex to pay for both Peter and Paul, and Mary too.

Do we mean it when we say it's better to take care of our own?

If we're going to hide behind those words we oughta mean them. And if we mean them then we better get serious about such problems as homelessness, poverty, education, to name a few.

Otherwise we must admit to ourselves the truth: human life and dignity are not our top priorities. We aren't really concerned about people after all, we're just kidding ourselves.

*Erin Hill is a graduate pursuing a teaching certificate*



## MAIL CALL

### Debate over Priest continues

As a Catholic and former student of A&M, I find the decision to show the film *Priest* to be one not of maliciousness, but one of ignorance.

To show any film that offends any group recognized on campus is clearly not consistent with University policy. In University Regulations it states, "submitting a student or other person to indignity or humiliation (including derogatory references to subgroup classification or stereotype) regardless of the intent is prohib-

ed conduct."

This film was created to be anti-Catholic. It's maker is openly anti-Catholic and admits the film's purpose was to promote anti-Catholicism. The movie portrays Catholics, especially priests, as hypocrites and directly attacks our faith.

The Battalion's Editorial Board argues that the film is a legitimate debate.

This is untrue. A debate has two sides and two arguments. No person with an open mind to fairness and religion can say this film has merit.

It's purpose was to offend Catholics. It has accomplished it's goal and for that reason, it

should not be shown at a University such as A&M, that prides itself on being sensitive to diversity and pluralism.

*Marcel LeJewne  
Former Student*

• Though I have yet to see *Priest*, I plan to do so Friday night at the MSC.

A Catholic student said, "It (Priest) directly and viciously attacks the faith that I hold."

Faith should be something that comes from within. If a belief is truly held, "attacks" from the outside should only make one's faith stronger.

In the past few years, the Catholic Church has been its own worst enemy with numerous cases of sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests.

The Catholic Church should put more effort in helping its congregation and building faith rather than boycotting movies with fictional depictions of Catholic clergymen.

*Angie Perryman  
Class of '95*

### Kyle Field policy angers parents

My husband and I have experienced frustration with A&M before, but what we experienced this weekend at the LSU vs. A&M football game takes the cake.

We really wanted to attend the game, so when we were unsuccessful in finding a baby sitter for our 12-month-old son, we decided to take him with us to the game.

When we arrived at the gate, we found out that we had to pay \$25 for a ticket for our 1-year-old son to go into the game.

The 12th Man Foundation feels that they need to get money for every single head that enters the stadium, whether they take up a seat or not.

It is bad enough that the student price for a season pass is more than it costs for tickets to all the home games, but it's ridiculous that they also feel that a baby must purchase a \$25 guest ticket because, of course, he does-

n't have a student ID. \$25 for a 12-month-old is ludicrous. We had no problem taking our son to A&M baseball games in the spring. They never charged us a single penny to bring our son into the game.

Isn't it ironic that students with young children who want to be a part of the 12th Man are not able to do it because of the 12th Man Foundation?

*Misti and Scot Mathews  
Class of '95*

### NEA cuts will help shrink government

After reading H.L. Baxter's column last Thursday, I felt his case required thorough analysis.

Baxter espouses the cultural collectivist political line that all of us (especially my "white," "male," "heterosexual," "Christian" brethren are rather misguided and incapable of treating others with respect, so the state must intervene with its faultless

*Matt M. Murphy  
Class of '96*