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History in danger of repeating itself in Bosnia

Lagainst the Bosnian Serb positions surrounding Sarajevo were long

The air strikes were in retaliation for the deaths of 37 civilians in an artillery strike on the city last week.

It's about time we sank our teeth into the Serbs. They are disgusting. Real "soldiers" don't shell innocent civilians the way the Serbs do? Real soldiers don't use artillery on civilians.

In the military, artillery is known as the "King of Battle." It's one of the most destructive forces of war. It rips people in wo and turns children into a red mist. And that's what the Serbs are doing whenever the media reports that Saraje o "received more shelling today." I don't nderstand their ruthlessness

But I guess that's what they must do when they're in the middle of "ethnic

Oh sure, I understand now. They have

ADAM HILL COLUMNIST

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.

If the goal is a "Greater Serbia" (that's what the Serbs call it) then hey, they gotta do a little exterminating.

And exterminating is exactly what the Serbs are trying to do. The shelling of Sarajevo is only one

atrocity of their "ethnic cleansing."

A 1993 United Nations human rights report stated "the Serbs have unleashed. a campaign of cruelty, brutality, and killing unrivaled since the Nazi atrocities of World War II.

The report also states the Serbs have raped scores of Muslim women in an effort to further their ethnic goals.

And now, CNN has reported satellite photos showing the locations of what could be mass graves similar to those in

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 con-

scious, 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 Iraqi's.

Adam Hill is a junior history major

Clinton slides once more

he British have a way with English -I guess it has something to do with the fact that the language origi nated from them.

The latest offering

of new vocabulary comes from The Economist, a pop-

ular British newsmagazine. "Clindecision: A political decision or appointment, not necessarily the right one, which is put offuntil, 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 poli-

ics 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 atest 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 credibili-

ty in my eyes. (For you freshman: if your proessor said this last week, look in our student handbook under "Qos" for instructions on what to

Now NATO fliers are blast-



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

this time. Finally, a clue seems to be on the horizon for the Bosnian Serbs

.. and it's being piloted by some of America's finest men. Soon, the Bosnian Serbs will meet the American and NATO

demands, and the bombings will stop. Then the chorus from the

White House press room will begin, "Didn't the President do a wonderful job on this one?" My answer: "No, mudslides are

pretty much an issue of gravity. First, a little responsible leadership a couple of years back may have circumented the need to put America

vicemen's lives on the line an area where we have no strategic interest.

Second, the wrong lesson is inevitably going to be learned from Bosnia.

Politicians with no proper understanding of the military's role read: the present occupants of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. - will probably decide that this

"limited warfare" thing Clinton is pretty neat. 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.

Clindecision: 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 hap-

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 some-

thing 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

> > Former Student

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 air
HILL strikes, 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. How much responsibility does our country have in this war-torn area of the world? What should we commit to send? How much burden should we bear?

We ask ourselves these questions about many conflicts around the globe: Somalia, Haiti, Kuwait and Panama, to name a few

The decision on whether or not to get involved is one that Americans feel strongly about, with good reason. But we see the gross violation of hu-

man rights taking place and it makes us wonder. No easy answers, that's for sure, but many of us manage to find one answer to hide behind. We tell ourselves that our focus should be on

citizens of our own country, not of Bosnia, Serbia or Croatia.

Yeah, that's right — we need to take care of America first! Unfurl the flags, start up the band. We tell ourselves that we can't possibly be expected to take care of the rest of the world because

our country has a lot of problems to solve first. We say that we're too busy with our own people to police the world.

We have to pay attention to the gross violations of human rights with the home field advan-

tage. (Read: in our own country).

We remind ourselves that our resources are limited. We can only help X number of human beings so we probably ought to focus on Americans.

Being busy solving our own country's problems is a good reason not to get involved in foreign entanglements. There's no guilt when we think of it this way.

It's really the only excuse and it's a good one. So, on to the next question. Just how well are

we doing in our own country? That's where we run into just a couple of problems. All of that talk about helping our own people first and putting America back on her feet seems to be just another bit of what we could call the rhetoric of hypocrisy.

We say one thing but intend to do another When you hear people babbling about "helping America first!" before getting involved in places like Bosnia, you can be pretty sure that nothing

will come of it once push comes to shove. Things will just go back to the way they usually are, and we are left with that doggone question: Are human beings really our top priority? For example, after the bombing in Oklahoma City, a bill was put together in order to provide

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 sub-sidies 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 lawmak ers, 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



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

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 prohibit-

ed conduct."

This film was created to be anti-Catholic. It's maker is openly anti-Catholic and admits the films 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 le-

gitimate 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 LeJeune

· Though I have yet to see Priest, I plan to do so Friday night

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

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

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

wisdom (usually tax dollars) and

stop our tyranny. However, Baxter does actually express some individualistic libertarian ideas by asserting that "We are all individuals first, Americans second."

It seems as though Baxter should embrace more of the relatively new concept of individualism which holds that individuals and groups of a country can voluntarily interact and do what they please to preserve a certain culture.

There is no doubt that the less government there is, coupled with fair laws, the safer that all people are in our society. Nothing is more tyrannical than

the expansion of the state. Instead of denouncing the closing of the National Endowments for the Arts, and also for the humanities, Baxter should be leading the cheers, since his goals will be out of the reach of politicians with different agen-

das than his own.

Matt M. Murphy Class of '96



