

Attack of the red submarine

South Korea reacts irresponsibly to 'invasion'

It looks like President Clinton will have yet another chance to send out the troops before the Nov. 5 general election.

Why? Because South Korea is claiming that North Korea is planning an invasion after one of the Communist country's submarines ran aground on a southern reef near Kangnang (90 miles east of Seoul).

Although South Korea is requesting the United States to deploy troops under the guise of joint maneuvers, the United States should not get involved.

These days of America protecting healthy nations that fail to defend themselves must end.

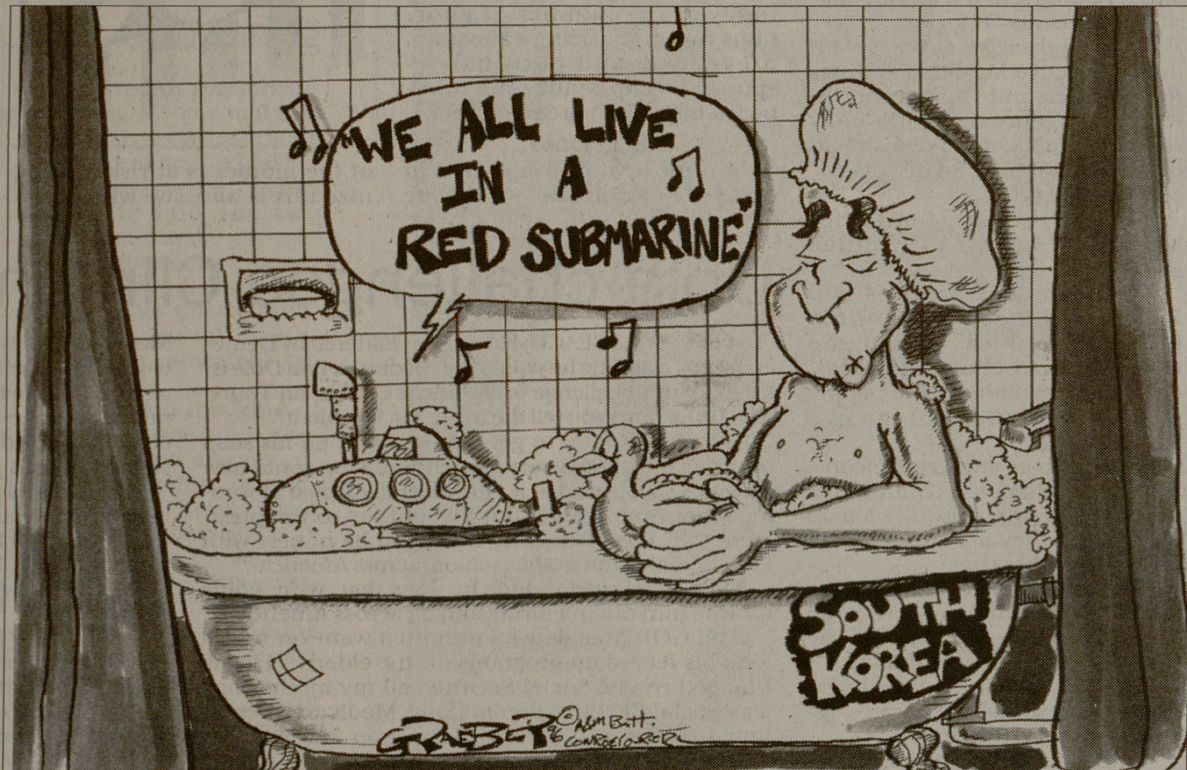
If the request is honored and an invasion by either country follows, American soldiers will be on the front lines. And the entire peninsula is not worth accumulated lives.

But ever since the plastic-hulled, shot submarine was discovered on the surf last week, the South has handled the situation in an irresponsible manner that jeopardizes the already fragile armistice.

A massive manhunt by thousands of South Korean military personnel located 11 of the Communist sailors — shot in the head on a nearby mountain. Nine were killed in shoot-outs over the following days. And it is likely that five others have crossed into the North.

Today, only one sailor has been captured alive. Lee Kwang-min initially refused to answer questions for fear the North would claim his capture and punish his family. But four bottles of the potent Asian liquor soju (and a likely beating) convinced him otherwise.

The intoxicated sailor reluctantly stated his submarine's engine had failed after five crew members went ashore to spy on South Korea-



an military installations. Without any means to propel itself back to its northern home port of Wonsan, the vessel helplessly drifted and ran aground.

He went on to explain that he and his comrades abandoned the beached vessel in an attempt to cross the demilitarized zone, which lay 40 miles up the coastline. He then added that the plastic-hulled submarine had been infiltrating South Korean waters since 1994.

Lee's "admission of guilt" was somewhat confirmed by the discovery of two stolen South Korean military uniforms onboard the vessel.

But despite South Korea's attempts to divert attention by blowing the incident out of proportion, the whole affair raises some serious questions about the South's own national defense.

Whether the leaky vessel lost power during a training mission and drifted south or was spying on its sworn enemy, why wasn't the sluggish, diesel-powered submarine being tracked as soon as it

entered South Korean waters? And if Comrade Lee is telling the truth, how could the submarine infiltrations gone undetected for over two years?

This vessel didn't exactly evade radar with stealth technology. It was an out-dated, Cold War relic belonging in a museum.

With that in mind, the South Korean military ought to take a shot of its own soju and interrogate itself for a few hours in a dimly lit room.

That won't happen, though. The southern half of the Korean Peninsula and its national defense have been embarrassed — by an incapacitated plastic submarine.

To save face, the South Korean government is dangerously escalating what was initially a minor incident into a major international crisis, threatening to unravel planned talks between North and South Korea, China and the United States.

The refusal to return the now-sober prisoner and the bodies of

his dead comrades only serves to further destabilize an already volatile situation.

And it is possible that South Korea is intentionally escalating tensions to justify a strike on its nemesis to the north.

But if either country invades the other, one thing is clear: South Korea wants American soldiers on the front lines.

Americans have already shed their blood on this foreign soil years ago. And the painful end to the conflict only resulted in status quo ante bellum.

But the United States should remember the harsh realities of the Korean War and not be so quick to suffer for the less-than-democratic South Korea just because the Asian country fails to monitor its own coastline.

The time has come for countries, namely South Korea, which have emerged as industrial powers under the protection of the United States to be defending themselves.

Buying out America

Fellow Americans: I came before you a week ago to announce my candidacy for president.

After introducing my immigration policy, the other candidates have unjustly attacked me and the immigration plan without offering an alternative of their own.

Because of fear, the career politicians have stooped to dirty politics in effort to silence me.

I will not go quietly. Today, the national deficit and future tax increases are of major concern to the American people.

If reelected, Bill Clinton will continue to raise taxes and add twice as many social programs that will increase the national debt.

Bob Dole has promised a 15 percent tax cut and an increase in defense spending while balancing the budget. This plan sounds a lot like "voodoo economics" under the Reagan regime.

Ross Perot's only goal will be to create a tax-code that will help his financial situation.

American tax-payers, I have a solution in which you can believe. With almost six years of education at Texas A&M under my belt, I have discovered how to rid the United States of income taxes, balance the budget and possibly pay the citizens money for just being Americans.

The first phase is to abolish the Internal Revenue Service and income taxes by instituting a general use fee for all citizens. The president and his cabinet will be allowed to raise the rate of the fee at anytime without elections or warning to the people. The government should be trusted that it will act only in the people's best interest.

The next stage on the economic plan is to build parking garages all over the country. As with the general use fee, unexpected increases in rates will be common practice.

However, this increase will not effect Americans, since parking garages will be strictly for

Columnist



David Minor
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visitor parking. Finally we have reached the phase of the budget policy that will dramatically raise funds for the American people.

If I am elected president, I will allow the United States to accept commercialism as a means of economic development. Some countries may say the U.S. government is selling out

when the torch of the Statue of Liberty is changed to a Nike Swoosh, but how many others will possess the surname "The Nike Nation?"

This would only be the first in a handful of corporate sponsorships.

A second arch would be added in St. Louis and both would be painted gold. McDonald's would salivate at the opportunity to have a city called McLouis which showcased the golden arches.

The renaming of national monuments is another untapped resource. Just think of the Ford-Lincoln Memorial, the Master Lock Florida Keys or the Liberty Taco Bell.

If these corporations are willing to pay individuals and universities millions to sponsor their teams, just think how much money the United States of America could generate. With these additional

McDonald's would salivate at the opportunity to have a city called McLouis.

sources of revenue, income taxes will be a thing of the past and the national deficit will disappear in no time.

The United States has no bounds in corporate sponsorship, but it must act quickly. If we do not

establish this policy immediately, the opportunities will be squandered. As we speak, Sears is negotiating a contract for aluminum siding for the Great Wall of China and Disney trying to purchase the ancient pyramids in an effort to create a new amusement park in Egypt.

The time is now for the United States to take action insuring these corporate sponsors continue to support America and rid the country of the debt it has built over the years. Under new leadership this land can return to the powerful nation we have all grown to love. God Bless you and God Bless America.

Don't get caught

Bart Simpson's philosophy rules American society

The highest honor bestowed upon any child on the playground by his or her peers is pretty simple: "I can't believe you got away with that!"

Maybe we never grow up. Americans have long had a sickness rooting for the underdog, even when the underdog breaks established rules. It isn't too long after our Puritan colonial days that this attitude became a prevalent feature of American society.

One early example of seeing what we get away with comes with the Boston Tea Party. The lightly taxed colonies were pissed off that the crown and his tea company buddies would be making extra cash off the monopoly in the colonies. So they dumped the stuff in the harbor.

By rational standards, these colonials were a reckless mob. The British were steamed and came down hard on the Massachusetts Bay colony. And the other colonies sat anxiously by waiting to see if they would get away with it. The rest is pretty well known history. It's a funny little American quirk that our law-abiding society should have its roots in such reckless disregard for authority.

But maybe those were bad rules — they deserved to be broken.

Perhaps, but like all concepts that start nobly, our desire to duck authority has festered to become an ugly scar on our national identity rather than a funny little quirk.

We disregard the rules in many cases that are less than honorable. Would we think of our neighbor as criminal if he cheats on his income taxes? Probably not. Our first question might be, "How does he get away with that?" But isn't paying taxes the right thing to do? Even when we disagree with the rate, we don't disagree with the premise: Our government needs money to operate.

And there are other laws we ignore. Are we criminals when we drive 70 in a 55? Try to imagine this: You're charged with the murder of your ex-wife and her friend, but you try to flee before the deadline comes to turn yourself into the police. Society would judge you pretty harshly, right?

Not if you're O.J. Simpson. Apparently if you've won a Heisman Trophy, society will line the streets and cheer you on.

What if you avoid the law in other ways like dodging the draft? Apparently it is OK as long as you lose the war.

Dodging the draft for World War II is bad; dodging the Vietnam draft is honorable. Different wars with different outcomes, but the premise was the

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same: The nation called on people to serve and some said no. And they got away with it.

There is no way to write a column about getting away with it and dodging the draft without mentioning our president, Bill Clinton, which is a pretty sad truth in itself.

But Clinton is the ultimate example of how far we are willing to go to see people get away with stuff. We like to see him talk his way out of things so much we're about to ask for a second term.

On the other side of the coin, our greatest national shame was when Richard Nixon got caught. The biggest question to come out of Watergate was not, "How could he abuse his power?" but rather, "Why didn't he burn the tapes?"

Bart Simpson might as well be president in the current administration. ("I didn't do it. Nobody saw me do it. You can't prove anything.")

When he first arrived on the national political scene, he denied everything. But now Clinton doesn't even humor us with straight-faced denials.

He has admitted to smoking pot and dodging the draft. He's all but admitted to marital infidelity, and many supporters admit he lacks character. But we don't care anymore. We're sick of mudslinging, we say.

But in reality, we think it's kinda neat that such a "human" guy is in the White House. We think it's great that he got away with smoking pot and dodging the draft.

It's like slapstick comedy. We find humor in the absurd things that Clinton gets away with.

In fact, it's possible the American public has a secret agenda for electing Clinton. We want to see the Clinton Years, the movie, starring Bill Murray as the president and Jane Curtin as Hillary.

One scene will open with a very stoned Bill thumbing through FBI files on Republican leaders and Hillary will march in angrily.

"Bill, I told you to hide those Whitewater files, but you just left them on the table in the living room."

"Well, just say you didn't know anything about them," he'll slowly reply.

"Great idea, honey."

The movie can end on a flashback to a young Bill, played by Bart Simpson, on the playground. His friends will stand around him and ask with complete wonder, "How'd you get away with that?" Then the scene will cut to Bill being sworn in for a second term winking at the camera saying under his breath, "I don't know boys. I guess it's just the American way."



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MAIL CALL

Media misses the main issue, again

Regarding Aja Henderson's Sept. 25 column, "Infamous by death."

Once again, ignorant, insensitive, white people have turned their backs on a misunderstood, ill-portrayed, black male.

Get real Aja. Do you truly feel the majority of whites are that ignorant and insensitive?

Was Tupac's death tragic? Yes, any murder is. Did he possess talent and have many positive attributes to offer society? Of course. Do I mourn his death? Not really.

Now before you stamp KKK on my forehead, let me expand. Tupac Shakur was a convicted violent criminal and sex offender — "Bottom line." Funny how you left that out of your column. White, black, green, orange or Aggie maroon, violence and sexual assaults are intolerable.

The media has turned this event into a race issue. In my eyes, it is irrelevant that he was black or a rapper. Simply stated, he was a thug.

Our country's situation will never improve until we judge a person by their actions, not their color nor creed, or where they're from. Isn't that what we say we want? So much for being color-

blind. Aja's attitude is disturbing. You are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Why don't you try to understand why people, regardless of color, react the way they do, instead of always throwing the race card.

But hey, I'm just some white guy from the middle class.

John Urban
 Class of '96

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