

EDITORIAL

Military force must continue in Bosnia

It is quiet in Sarajevo today because the use of military muscle was beneficial. But muscles should have been flexed more than a year ago, and military muscles must continue to be flexed.

The Serbian forces began their attacks against Croatia in 1991 and genocidal attacks in Bosnia in 1992. The war has killed 200,000 people and turned two million into refugees.

The numbers are striking, convincing as to why Clinton has supported NATO action against the Serbs. Yet action should have been taken in the beginning, back when violence first consumed the lives of hundreds, instead of violence that has taken the lives of thousands and the destruction of a country.

It would not take any superficial powers to forecast the violence that was to take place. Lives, and many of them, could have been saved if action was taken earlier, action that should have been taken when George Bush was president and that should have continued when Bill Clinton slid into the Republican-warmed White House.

Now, as history most certainly repeats itself, military strength must continue. The threat of air strikes against the Serbs worked, and it worked well, but Sarajevo is only the capital city and the rest of Bosnia is still a war-torn country where lives are being lost.

The U.N. commander in Sarajevo, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose of Britain, recommended that NATO extend its threat beyond Sarajevo and into surrounding Serb-controlled cities. Choosing to sit back, Clinton again has decided to let the dust clear before further supporting threats of NATO air strikes against the Serbs.

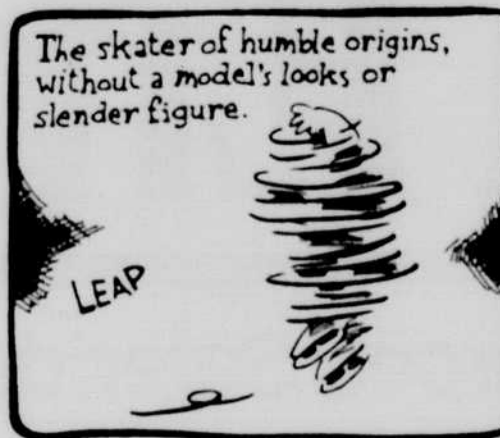
Certainly some time will be needed for the Clinton administration to weigh the pros and cons of deeper involvement in the scenario. But lives were saved — not lost — with the last ultimatum, and certainly the same thing would be beneficial to the lives of those who are still threatened.

Since World War II, the United States' basic principal has been to prevent the seizure of territory by force.

It is a principal that must stand the test of time and act as a warning to countries that may find themselves involved in such a situation. Another compelling problem faced by Clinton and the NATO forces is when to let the Bosnian forces, which are strengthening, to fight their own war— when to deem them capable to put their country back together and carry on without the assistance of NATO forces. The simple answer is, when they can they will.

Until peace is restored to Bosnia, NATO interaction should continue the support of the Bosnian forces. The situation in the cities beyond Sarajevo seem similar to the situation in Sarajevo; the threat of force worked well to regain control, and the threat should continue to the other cities until peace is reached.

Pulling out anytime before that would be detrimental to the positive long-term effects that could potentially be created. And pulling forces out early or limiting the exertion of power could damage efforts that have put Bosnia in the position that it is in now compared to the position it was in a few years ago.



LETTERS

JPN checks in

This letter is in response to the concerns expressed in the *Emerald* about the library's use of JAP as a geographical abbreviation for Japan in the slide collection. The abbreviation has been used for approximately 45 years, and it appears on over 25,000 slides. JAP has been used in the same way that MEX is used to denote Mexico. The slide library has never used the term "Oriental" because it is not an accurate geographical description. On our initiative two years ago, the library changed the name of its Orientalia Collection to East Asian Collection.

Although JAP was used as a geographical abbreviation, we agree a change is necessary. Beginning immediately, we will use the abbreviation JPN for Japanese art and architecture. With over 25,000 slides already labeled, it will take years to completely eradicate the old designation, but all slides added to the collection or those which must be re-labeled or repaired for any reason will get new labels using JPN. As resources permit, we will deal with the retrospective re-labeling of these slides.

The University library serves people of all cultures and viewpoints, and the slide collection is an important campus resource supporting multicultural education. The library is happy to make this change in the spirit of diversity, sensitivity and respect.

George W. Shipman
University Librarian

Objectivism

Ayn Rand and Anne Rice the same person? *Pleeease*. Ordinarily I would have considered such tripe amusing, but given the complete ignorance regarding Rand and her philosophy of late, it's time to clarify things a bit. Contrary to popular belief, apparently, Ayn Rand is dead and has been since 1982. I doubt she is posthumously writing

cheesy vampire novels, but were she still alive, she would undoubtedly be committed to furthering the progress of her objectivist philosophy. To paraphrase (a gargantuan undertaking), Objectivism consists of:

1. Metaphysics — Objective reality
2. Epistemology — Reason
3. Ethics — *Rational* self-interest (not greed)
4. Politics — Laissez-faire capitalism

These principles, reduced to their simplest terms without further explanation and/or research, can be easily misunderstood by the naive (Eric McCready, *ODE*, Feb. 14) and the ignorant (Juniper Brinkman, *ODE*, Feb. 1).

Rand asserts that a person's mind is that person's greatest asset, reason (vs. faith or belief) is that person's best tool for survival (and achievement), and reality is the ultimate arbiter of the decisions one makes. Rational self-interest implies that one should not be *obligated* to sacrifice oneself to others, and vice versa. One's need does not constitute a stake on another's life.

Also, kudos to David Thorn and Jake Berg, virtually the only two contributors to this paper worth reading. It is refreshing, sadly, that there are still a few with some intelligence and a sense of humor willing to counter the rampant soap-box-mentality liberalism (Robbie Reeves) so prevalent on these pages. Keep it up and see you at the beer gardens, Jake.

Todd Garrison
Student

Ramadan

The month of Ramadan has begun. For those who are unfamiliar with it, it is a month where Muslims (followers of the Islamic faith) all around the world observe the practice of fasting.

Unfortunately, there is much confusion about this month and

what it means for Muslims. Basically, the fast that is observed takes place between the sunrise and the sunset, i.e., during daylight. At this time, Muslims are prohibited from eating or drinking anything, not even water. (Of course, those who are ill are exempt from fasting until they are able to make up the days they missed.) In addition, sexual as well as other activities that fulfill human urges, e.g. smoking, are likewise prohibited during the fasting periods.

The significance of this ascetic practice is profound and far-reaching. The physical self-control of human desires, which is what it comes down to, is extremely difficult at a time when everywhere you look you are bombarded with gimmicks intended to arouse human hungers. Fasting compels people to actually *feel* what it is like to go for a day without food or water, like our fellow humans in Ethiopia, Somalia and Bosnia.

Yet, there is an even deeper side to all of this that goes beyond physical denial: it is the metaphysical fast. Refraining from base verbal and intellectual urges is the true test. In other words, trying to go for days on end without saying or *thinking* things that offend God and the natural order of things is the true challenge that most Muslims are trying to meet.

Hanan Ramahi
Muslim Student Association

Point missed

Regarding S. Swanborn's letter (*ODE*, Feb. 17), I'm afraid she is missing the point about how racism is fostered. It is not, as she says, born of a willingness to treat people differently, but rather a willingness to be insensitive to the issues others may face. This issue of JPN vs. JAP labels is really ridiculous. We all know the bad connotations of the word Jap, so let's get past it with no further debate.

Brian Bogart
Japanese

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