

# EDITORIAL

## Short stay in Haiti won't bring peace

We're seeing them again: images of impoverished people dancing and cheering in the streets because the United States military has come to liberate them.

But is Clinton's decision to send troops to Haiti a humanitarian decision, or is he running scared because of his seeming inability to develop and carry through foreign policy? If the decision to invade Haiti is based on the latter, this move is not going to be a career-saver.

With members of Congress already clamoring for a mandatory withdrawal deadline, what can Clinton hope to accomplish in Haiti? He doesn't have the support of the public — maybe the public would be more supportive if this administration would actually find a policy and stick to it. One minute Clinton is calling Cedras a monster and the next he is calling Cedras an honorable man and lifting sanctions against him.

A short stay in Haiti will not accomplish much. It may put deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide back in power, but it won't correct the nation's legacy of poverty and instability.

In his address to the nation about the situation, Clinton said, "Now the United States must protect our interests — to stop the brutal atrocities that threaten tens of thousands of Haitians, to secure our borders and to preserve stability and promote democracy in our hemisphere and to uphold the reliability of the commitments we make, and the commitments others make to us."

From his remarks it would seem that this is a humanitarian issue.

During a background briefing by senior officials, the humanitarian point was stressed, but the officials made it very clear that there were other reasons for this mission. One official said, "While much of the attention, of course, is being given quite properly to the military preparations and parallel with that to the political preparations, we regard economics as a key part of this mission. And it has been a key part of planning this."

So why didn't the president say this to the public in his address? Because images of violence and brutality make military action easier for the public to justify. And although stopping such violence is a laudable aim, it is not an easy task, and it there's no way we can expect to make Haiti a permanently peaceful place in just a few months. Sure, while our soldiers are there with guns in their hands, we might be able to keep the violence to a minimum. But what happens when we leave?

The question of economics is central to the Haitian issue. Haiti is, by most accounts, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Such extreme poverty breeds violence.

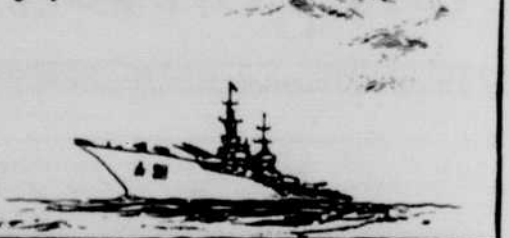
Bringing peace to Haiti will require nothing less than a rebuilding of the country's economy. That will be expensive, and may not even be possible. Does this country want to be responsible for that task? More importantly, do we want to foot the bill?

### NAVAL OPTIONS IN HAITI...

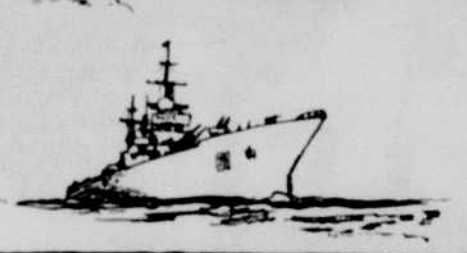
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### LETTERS

#### Haitians lose

Just last week, President Clinton was talking on nationwide television about the brutality of Haiti's military leaders. He talked about the horribly mutilated bodies found in the streets, the use of rape as a political weapon against dissidents and even the killings of orphaned children.

Now, suddenly, they are not such bad guys after all and amnesty has been granted to them. They are even allowed to still live in the country.

Governments run by big business, like the U.S. government, do not make interventions in foreign countries on behalf of the common people of that country. They make interventions on behalf of big business!

Aristide will be restored, but only as a figurehead with no real power. He will never again be able to threaten the profits of the American assembly plants in Haiti by attempting to raise the minimum wage from \$0.14 to \$0.50 an hour. The Haitian people lose again, as they have many times since their slave armies defeated Napoleon's troops in 1804.

Gary Sudborough  
Bellflower, Calif.

Truth is, most people don't want to think about these topics of gender, body and sexuality, or to admit that they need a spotlight in a public forum. Hence, "See No Evil," hear no evil, speak no evil, commit no evil equals your black curtain.

Wake up and smell the fish (multiple puns intended, oh exalted leader and decision-maker of the Erb Memorial (Student) Union. And what's up, students? The *Emerald* says they haven't received much mail. School's in session: Tell those administrators who think they rule your lives how you think your student union should be run.

Jenny Beaumont  
Former EMU Board member

#### Disservice

Your article on East 13th Avenue's recent facelift contained an error begging for a correction. Sandino's Fonda, the previously interesting cafe, was not named for a Mexican revolutionary as stated by your reporter. Rather, it was named for the Nicaraguan hero Augusto Sandino. From 1926 to 1932, Sandino was the leader of Nicaragua's struggle to establish sovereignty and liberty for the Nicaraguan people.

To counter this thirst for freedom and for its own hemispheric economic dominance, the U.S. government, at the request of President Taft, sent in the Marines. The Marines subsequently settled into the longest U.S. military occupation of this century (13 years), and encountered the first ever peasant-based anti-United States guerrilla resistance. Sandino's campesino army fought the Marines to a standstill. During peace negotiations brokered by America, Sandino was treacherously assassinated by Anastasio Somoza, who then established a 50-year brutal dictatorship avidly supported by the United States. Somoza's dictatorship

ended in 1979 when the Sandinista party (formed in the 1970s and named after its national hero) liberated the country in a massive popular revolution. To many progressives around the world, Sandino remains an inspiring hero. The *Emerald* does not only a disservice to historical accuracy in general, but to the inhabitants of Nicaragua and Mexico by making such an error.

As to the newspapers and magazines previously found in Sandino's Fonda—your editors obviously believe that anything to the political left of the *Emerald* is subversive, whereas to many of us, they remain merely palatable.

Guy Burton  
Psychology

#### Support LGBA

The staff of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance would like to welcome all new and returning students. For those who aren't aware of the LGBA, we are here to provide support and visibility for the queer community on campus. We host events such as the national Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) and Gay Pride Week during spring term. Our existence depends on volunteer and community support.

Once again, Oregon voters are faced with a ballot measure sponsored by the Oregon Citizens Alliance that specifically addresses gay and lesbian rights. The LGBA encourages students and faculty to get involved in this and other issues. Those interested in getting involved with the LGBA or the queer-positive community should attend the LGBA social in Gerlinger Lounge on Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. We hope everyone has a good school year and with your support, we can build a stronger community. The LGBA office is on the third floor of the EMU (Room 319) and our phone number is 346-3360.

Susan Anderson  
and three co-signers

#### Smelly fish

Have a little irony with that curtain? Or have you enough paradox with that curtain? Yes, I am referring to the EMU Art Gallery exhibit "See No Evil." I smell the herring all the way down here in the Bay Area. Dusty ol' pal, and it stinks real bad.

These iron curtains reek a bit like preaching to the converted. What, like people who dare to peek behind that black prophylactic might not still, with all of that protection, become impregnated with fear and offense and continue to call your office — demanding that you abort the exhibit? People are people, I am happily afraid, and some people will remain offended. What's worse, is that they will also remain ignorant and clothed with fear and hatred toward the subject matter. The topics being expressed need to be portrayed through art. They are difficult ideas and require strong "language" to make a point.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.