

Bosnian peace doomed if war criminals go free

OUR OPINION:

Diplomatic solutions will fail if perpetrators of genocide go unpunished

As approximately 20,000 U.S. troops prepare to leave for Bosnia on an in-your-face, no-nonsense peace enforcement mission, speculation and the realities of that war continue to undermine President Clinton's peace accord for the region.

Clinton and his military advisors, learning from catastrophes such as the mistake in Beirut that allowed a terrorist to kill approximately 250 U.S. Marines, will soon send a group of well-trained and heavily armed American soldiers to the Balkans. This time, our men and women will be armed with permission to actually use their weapons if and when they are threatened.

Still, sending our troops now to join a NATO force of about 40,000 troops, is like applying a band-aid to cancer or installing smoke detectors after a house has burned to the ground.

Though it may prove to be too little too late, the U.S. has finally committed to doing something other than just verbally condemning the war in the former Yugoslavia. Sending our troops is a good idea for many reasons.

However, there are a number of complex problems that stand in the way of a lasting peace in Bosnia — any one of which could bring the entire process to a grinding halt.

On Saturday, thousands of Bosnian Serbs protested the peace accord in their frontline section of Grbavica

in Herzegovina. They are concerned that the plan, which will all but cut Bosnia in half, could result in massive retaliation from the proposed Muslim-Croat federation scheduled to govern their part of the city.

The Serbs should be afraid.

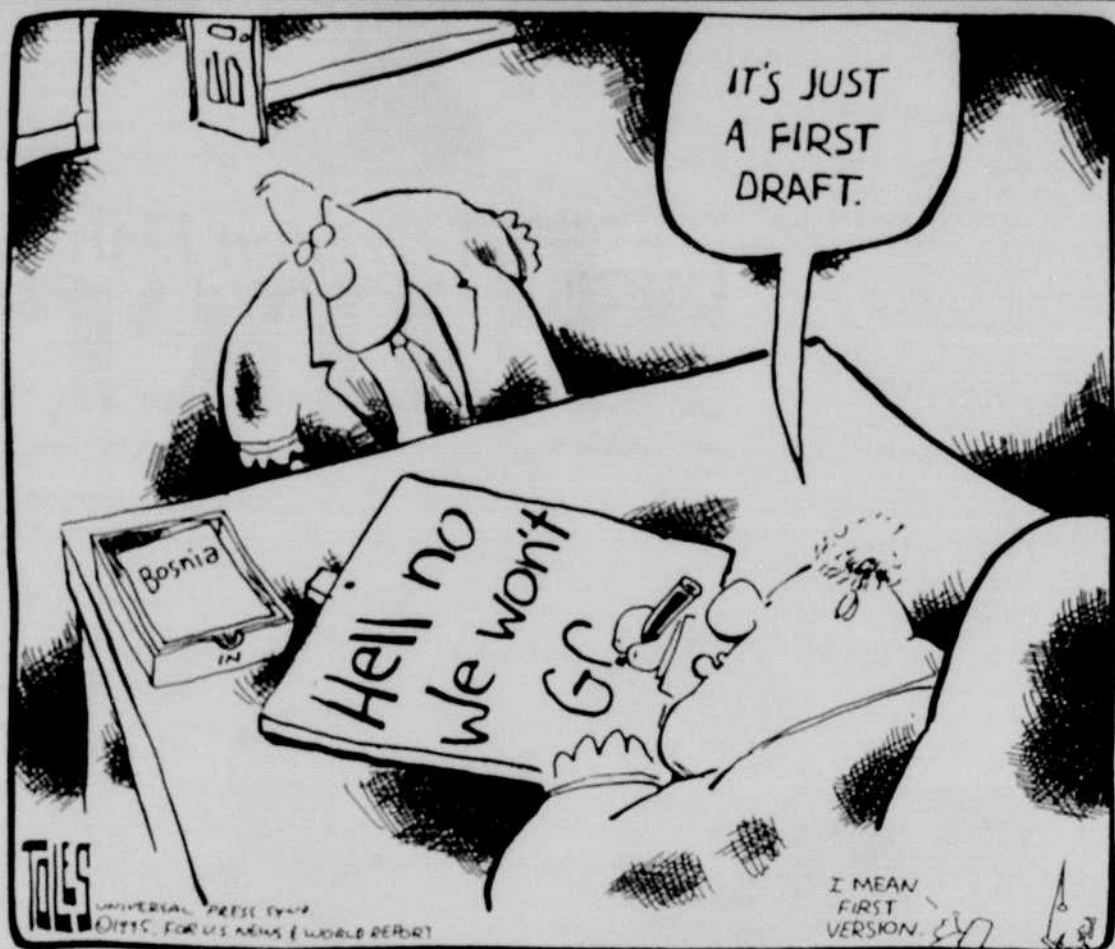
One of their own leaders, Slobodan Milosevic, orchestrated the bloody war that took the lives of 250,000 of their former countrymen, driving two million people from their homes and creating a sea of refugees.

In fact, the International War Crimes Tribunal indicted two of Milosevic's comrades for the second time on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. It is no small irony that Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, one of the accused, recently asked that the U.S. and its allies guarantee the safety of the more than 100,000 Serbs living in and around the city.

Now that he and his henchmen have slaughtered thousands of Muslims and Croats, he wants protection so his people won't be handed the same fate.

If Serbs like Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic, the other IWCT-accused leader, are not brought to justice for their crimes, Croats and Muslims will not be able to move forward in forgiveness and reconciliation, and the accord will fail. The war will begin again as soon as American troops leave after their one-year stay.

With the help of a NATO coalition force bolstered by a U.S. contingency, perhaps their hate can be contained so more people won't lose their lives.



Dear senator: Please keep my tax money

It seems as if many more eyes than usual have turned to politics these days. With Senator Packwood leaving office and the federal government debilitated by internal strife, there is cause once again to lose hope in the American system.

Luckily for us, a group of "dogs" in the Capitol has not yet lost hope. As the deficit continues to rise, and the debt skyrockets beyond human conception, a group of House Democrats, known as the "Blue Dogs" to their colleagues, has been working on its plan to conquer the budget.

"Many Blue Dogs were once called Yellow Dog Democrats, a Southern term for someone who'll vote Democratic no matter what — even if the party candidate is a Yellow Dog. A Blue Dog is a Yellow Dog who's been choked so hard by the Democratic leadership that he or she has turned blue," R. A. Zaldivar told the *Oregonian* (11/24/95).

Instead of further attacking the Republican party, or turning on its own party, this group has left partisan politics aside in an effort to create a much-needed solution.

Congressional Budget Office, Robert Reischauer said, "If there's a desire to resolve this on both sides, [the Blue Dog plan] is an obvious framework on which to build. It's something that would appeal to the broad center of the American population."

For once, that broad center seems to include college students as a group to be protected. Under this plan there would be absolutely no cuts in student aid. That's right, none. The group seems to realize that it has become virtually impossible for most students to put themselves through college without going into severe debt.

The idea borrows heavily from President Clinton's Welfare Reform plan, but Republican ideas are prominent as well. Both Medicaid and Medicare would show increased savings, most of which would not directly affect the recipient.

Most amazing however, is that during the next seven years, while these modifications are occurring, more than \$30 billion would be cut from the national debt (*Oregonian*, 11/24/95). While \$30 billion is small potatoes when compared with the total debt, we must start somewhere.

It sounds great. But where is all this money suddenly appearing from? How can the budget be balanced with just a few hundred million dollars in cuts and yet save \$30 billion? This is where the plan gets sticky and loses a lot of support.

More people would support the Blue Dog plan

"I am willing to pay for a stable government, a balanced budget and taking a bite out of the national debt."

if it weren't for the so-called "out-of-control" cuts. These cuts don't target a specific group. Instead, they target taxpayers as a whole. Thus, the taxpayers would not get the \$245 billion tax cut the Republicans want to give them.

Well, so what? Survey after survey comes up with the startling new "fact" that Americans would rather balance the budget (gasp) than take a tax cut. Yes, it's true. As the American people finally fight to have the government keep their money, the government wants to give it back.

I must have heard a 100 times: "You get what you pay for." And I am willing to pay for a stable government, a balanced budget and taking a bite out of the national debt.

But it doesn't look as if we will get the chance to do that. We have been promised a tax cut and that is what it looks like we will get — like it or not.

Once I pay my taxes, that money is gone. Out the window.

I consider it money well-spent, and I don't expect a refund because I worry about where that money would be coming from. Every year that we don't pay off the debt it gets more out of control. Good news for Congress — they won't be around to worry about it. Bad news for us — we will be.

College students today are the ones who are going to be paying ... and paying ... and paying. We will pay with our financial aid now and Medicare when we are older. Because we are the ones going to be hurt, we need to stop the insanity before it steams us over. That's why I am encouraging all students to fight against the stupidity of accumulated debt and ask, even plead their representatives and senators to please keep our money. Sooner or later, the money will have to be paid. It might as well be when there is a solution at hand.

Kay Krautscheid, a sophomore majoring in biology, is a columnist for the Emerald.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes your opinions on this and other issues. You may submit a letter no longer than 250 words to the Emerald offices at Suite 300 in the EMU or send us your thoughts via e-mail at ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

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