

PERSPECTIVES

Violence sells

Clinton uses the possibility of war with Iraq to cover up sex scandal

The formulas and equations that make political science a 'science' are often less than obvious. Certainly the study of math or chemistry is much more scientific than the study of politics. And in most cases traditional science will utilize math in order to reach a conclusion while social sciences will study people's reactions or voting tendencies. In the case of the recent foreign policy push by the Clinton administration however, it becomes clear that mathematic

formulas do play a role in political science. The formula is simple: sex scandal + lying about sex scandal + getting caught at both + Kenneth Starr + impeachment inquiry + struggling Asian economy = foreign policy.

After five years of essentially serving as the non-foreign policy president, Clinton has finally become internationally active. In the past few months Clinton has negotiated peace deals in Ireland,

Kosovo and the Middle East. And more recently he has shipped additional troops and weapons to the Persian Gulf.

Each of these foreign policies was hailed as a victory, and to the person with a very short memory, they are. However, when one examines both the death toll and possible death toll incurred because of Clinton's previous inability to act, these victories becomes less apparent.

Take the Bosnian situation as an example. In 1995, U.S.-led NATO forces organized forces to prevent genocide in the former Yugoslavian province of

Bosnia. On several occasions, NATO warned Serbian forces to honor their borders and stop the ethnic cleansing or face an air strike. Yet the Serbs did little more than flinch before going about their usual business, and the NATO forces did nothing to back up their warning. This failure to act has done nothing to slow down the genocidal tactics of the region while bolstering the stronghold of Europe's most murderous leader since Adolf Hitler—Slobodan Milosevic.

And now, as the impeachment inquiry proceedings are set to begin, Clinton has again focused his attention on Iraq. Never mind that for seven and a half years Iraq has withheld documents pertaining to its weapons of mass destruction program. These documents were supposed to be handed to U.N. weapons inspectors at the conclusion of the Gulf War. During this same span, Hussein has halted the inspections and then allowed them to continue on 12 different occasions. The specu-

lation among the inspectors is that Hussein was moving weapons data and material to an undetectable location during these times.

Now consider that 105 days have passed since the weapons inspection teams were denied access by Hussein. In these past 105 days, it is quite possible that Iraq has been able to hide much of its arsenal. Or perhaps 105 days was enough time for Iraq in classic Hussein fashion to move weapons operations to a factory that also produces medicine or baby milk.

David Kay, a former U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq, expressed disappointment with the United States' decision not to launch an attack. In a television interview with Fox News, Kay said it was not only possible but probable that Hussein has moved more weapons than ever in this 105 days and is most likely "in the process of rebuilding his biological weapons."

If physically sending troops and weapons to the Persian Gulf was the best way to get Hussein to comply, then why didn't Clinton order the disbursement of troops 100 days ago? Committing to a strategic move at that time would have benefited American interests and possibly saved some of the 400,000 Iraqi children who have died of malnutrition since the post-Gulf-War sanctions began.

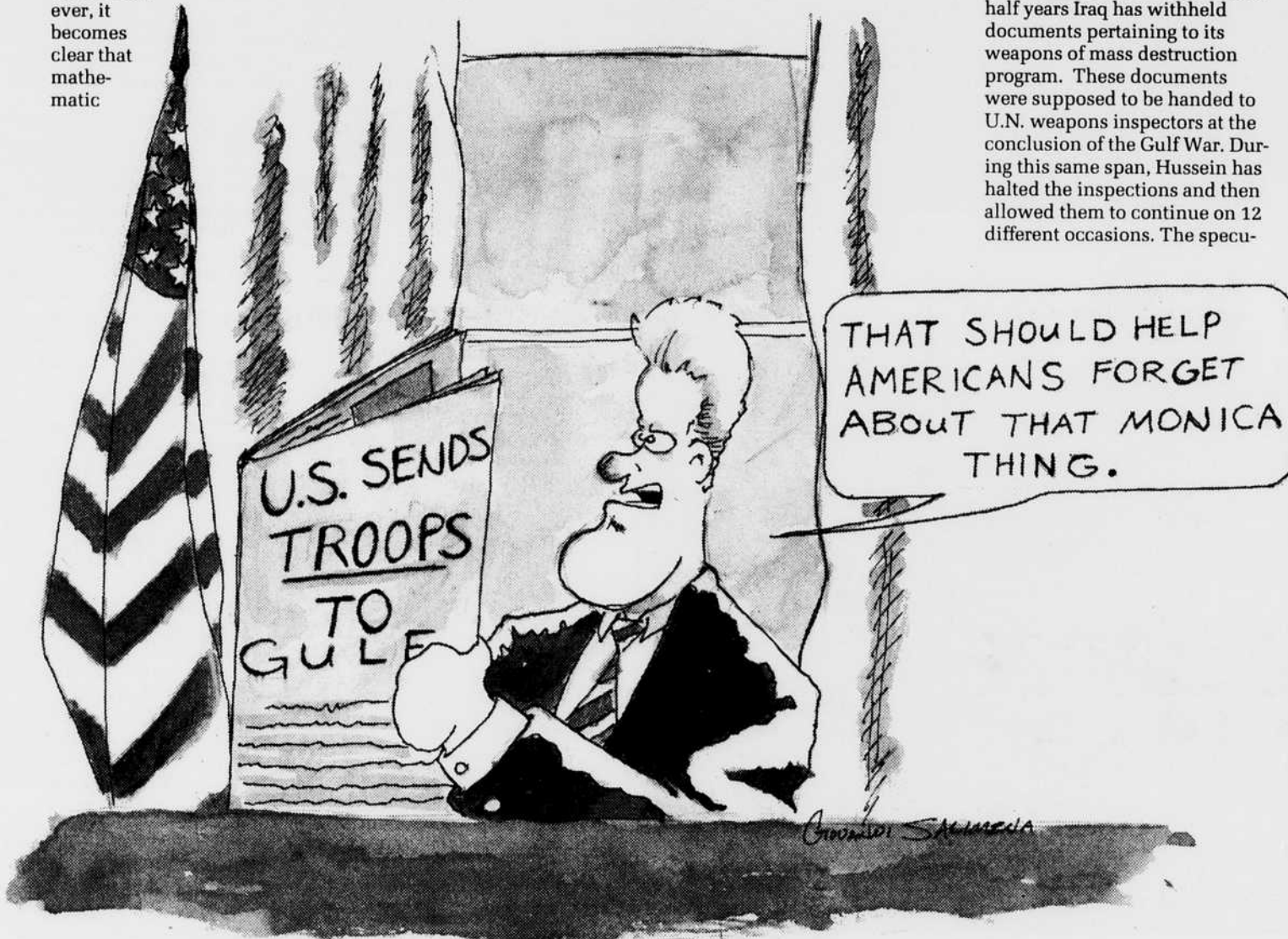
Unfortunately for the United States and its allies, President Clinton's commitment to foreign policy is contingent on his own political circumstances. Attempts to make policy against atrocities committed in the world are meaningless if the motivation behind them is to gain a few points in the CNN/USA Today Gallup Polls. Stabilizing Iraq's power in the Middle East is needed to save lives that are more important than the current president's fascination with his own reputation and subsequent place in history.

Aaron Artman is a columnist for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Opinion



Aaron Artman



Letters to the Editor

Anti-hate Laws

The cover story "Anti-hate laws combat prejudice" (ODE, Nov. 13) about Matthew Shepard, the young Wyoming man bludgeoned to death by two straight men, reminds us that we must achieve national hate crime legislation. As a gay man, I'm a survivor of such an attack.

Year after year, I continue to realize that facts of my life are irrelevant to straight people. I'm angry that the price of our visibility is the constant threat of violence, anti-gay violence to which practically every segment of this society contributes. There is no place in this country where we are safe, no place where we are not targeted for hatred and attack.

We hide our anger in substance abuse, sui-

cide and over-achieving in the hope of proving our worth. It would be wonderful if I didn't see only heterosexual couples in TV and movies. My brothers and sisters should have the legal right to marry, have a job and housing without fear of being bashed, stabbed, shot or tied to a fence and left to die.

Mike Walsh
Eugene

Child care campaign

I want to write in support of ASUO's child care campaign ("Students with children spotlighted," ODE, Nov. 12). Getting more block grant money from the state of Oregon to support student parents is an issue that affects all students and not just parents. First,

students won't have to pay more ASUO fees to child care subsidies if the block grant is increased. Second, students without kids have no way of being sure if sometime in their academic career they will need this assistance. Third, the increase in the block grant will benefit children and student-parents as members of the community.

Affordable child care for student families is a huge issue which goes unnoticed because many people don't recognize how many of us have kids and how costly it is to keep them in day care in order to come to class. I pay almost \$500 a month for one child in preschool. Financial aid calculates the average day care costs to be far less than that. I make \$800 a month as a GTF, and even after

my subsidies, almost 30 percent of my income goes to child care. That's a second rent payment. And when you consider the additional costs of raising a child after day care, the scope of the problem is more apparent.

I can't imagine how I could afford to stay in graduate school if I had two children instead of one. It's no surprise to me that women Ph.D.s are vastly under represented in my field. They're the ones who can't afford to work for GTF salaries and support their children.

Please support the ASUO child care campaign for more funding and child care facilities.

Robyn Carpenter
Graduate student in Political Science