

# PERSPECTIVES

## Bomb first question never

*New policy outlined on the eve of air strikes on Iraq does nothing to solve the problem in the middle east*

**W**ednesday, December 16, 1998, Clinton surprised the American people with a speech that many believe was long overdue, not the apology, but a speech outlining a policy of action against Iraq.

The first phase of the policy, already underway at that point, entailed U.S. and British forces to perform air strikes over Iraq. This part of the policy was designed to degrade Iraq's weapons capability and force them to comply with the UN weapons inspection agreement.

Although the strikes may have destroyed some of Saddam's weapons capabilities, they did not insure that he would stop production in the future.

In fact UN inspectors are now forbidden entrance into Iraq, thus halting any further weapons inspections.

Therefore, the first phase of the new policy has done nothing and may have made the situation in the middle east worse.

Several Arab countries are outraged at the United States for taking military action without consulting the UN and they plan to meet with Iraqi officials to discuss the situation.

Another phase of the policy calls for military action if Saddam takes threatening actions "such as trying to reconstitute his weapons of mass destruction or their delivery systems, (now without the UN inspec-

tions team in Iraq, we have no access to that information) threatening his neighbors, challenging allied aircraft over Iraq (which he has already done yet, other than return fire, we have done nothing in response) or moving against his own Kurdish citizens."

Clinton also cites that "the best way to end the threat once and for all is with a new Iraqi government." However insightful that comment may be, he does not offer how this will be accomplished.

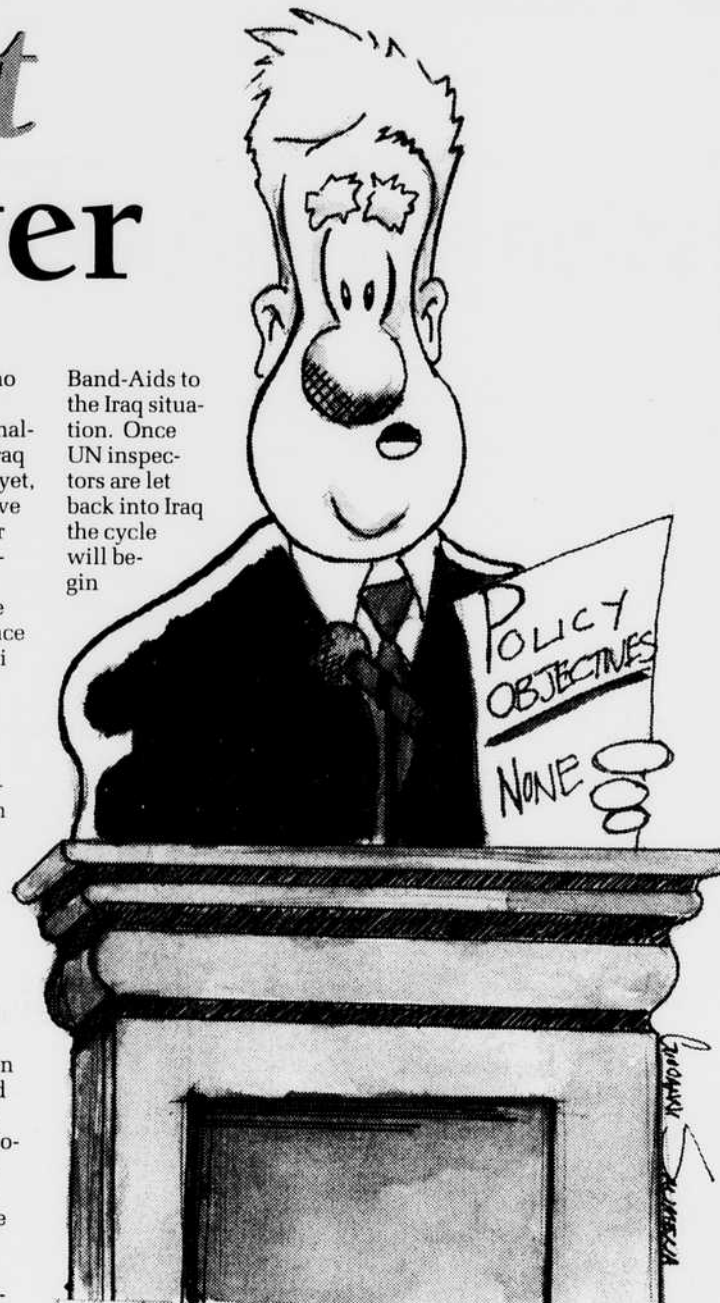
The tone of the policy outlined is also surprising when you consider that the struggle over Iraqi weapons inspections began more than seven years ago, and Saddam Hussein has never fully complied with the UN's demands.

It was just recently that this struggle caught the public's attention again when President Clinton threatened military action, only to back down at the last minute in November. Although he did so under the premise of giving just one more chance, no one really believed Saddam would comply.

Therefore, one has to wonder why he postponed an inevitable military encounter until just days before the impeachment vote when Saddam had not complied for a good six weeks prior to that date.

Overall, the new policy is everything but. The solutions offered serve as little more than

Band-Aids to the Iraq situation. Once UN inspectors are let back into Iraq the cycle will begin



Giovanni Salimena/Emerald

again. That would actually be the better scenario. However unlikely, Iraq may be able to rally support in the middle east and take action against the US in the future.

It is hard to dismiss this possibility when the United States in planning to increase the mil-

itary budget by nearly fifty percent over the next four years. What are we preparing for?

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.*

### Thumbs



**TO REMEMBERING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS:**  
Last month, South Eugene High School students raised enough money to fund a Christmas party with presents and all for local homeless children.

**TO A SAFER EUGENE:**  
Police reports indicate that robberies are down from 314 occurrences in 1997 to 247 in 1998. Police cite measure 11, which increased a convicted robbers sentence, as a major contributing factor for the decrease.



**TO MORE WAR TOYS:**  
President Clinton proposed a \$100 billion increase to the \$251 billion defense budget. The proposed increase would be the greatest hike in military spending since the cold war. Citing that the increase would be a way to maintain America's status "as the world's most powerful fighting force" Clinton believes this increase in necessary.

**TO TREATING ADULTS LIKE CHILDREN:**  
A recent article in the Statesman Journal claims that under-age-college students should be suspended when caught with alcohol. Although curbing under-age drinking is a good cause, the proposed method is ridiculous.

## Letters to the Editor

### No-fault is no good

When the Republican-led conference reconvenes in January, again on its agenda will be a bill which would impose national "no-fault" insurance, which the insurance industry claims will foster competition and lower the cost of automobile insurance. In truth, the so-called "Auto-Choice Reform Act" won't result in lower premiums and will instead benefit insurance companies at the expense of consumers.

Under the proposed legislative scheme, many injured people would lose the right to seek compensation from the party at fault and drivers who negligently or even recklessly cause accidents will be immune from responsibility for the harm they cause. This is nothing more than the tired and unfair concept of no-fault insurance, which has been repeatedly rejected by most states since the

idea first appeared in the 1970s.

Nothing in the proposed legislation would require insurance companies to reduce premiums for anyone. The truth is that of the ten states with the most expensive automobile insurance, eight have no-fault insurance. When Connecticut repealed its no-fault law in 1994, insurance rates actually dropped 9.7 percent the first year after the repeal went into effect, in Georgia, a 6 percent drop was seen.

No-fault insurance does not fairly compensate seriously injured people and does not hold wrong-doers accountable. It appears that while the Republicans pushing this idea in Congress are enamored with the concept of personal responsibility on such issues as help for the poor or criminal behavior, it abandons the concept when requested by their friends in the insurance industry.

Scott C. Lucas  
Eugene

### Truth in politics

To promote truth in advertising and product labeling, why don't Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives swap Henry Hyde for Hugh Hefner and trade Bob Livingston for Larry Flynt.

Ron Black  
Eugene

### Influence questionable

Either Duncan McDonald is remarkably naive, or he believes that the rest of us lack wit. Contrary to his statement that "people contribute to the University and ask for little in return" (ODE Dec. 3, 1998), I believe most people are aware that hard-

headed business folk rarely fork over substantial amounts of their hard-stolen lucre without some kind of quid pro quo guarantee—the billions spent on advertising is a good example.

And while it may be incorrect to automatically assume that corporate donations to universities buy undue influence in curriculum and research, considering the affect that large contributors have on the political process, honest suspicion of the practice in academia is hardly "paranoid and idiotic" as Dr. McDonald so gently puts it.

Bill Smees  
University Staff

### CORRECTION

The Jan. 4 News brief "Consolidated student loan deadline Jan. 31" should have given the URL: <http://www.ed.gov/DirectLoan/consolid2.html>.  
The Jan. 4 article "ASUO recognizes

brewery club" should have read: "If the brewery club is approved by the ASUO Executive and the Student Senate, it will receive status. that enables the club to receive future funding from the Programs Finance Committee." The Emerald regrets these errors.