

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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TAKE OUR WORD

U.S. foreign policy Eurocentric, racist

According to American and NATO officials, one of the main objectives for the continuing strikes in Kosovo is to ensure the human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

In principle, we agree with these humanitarian motivations for the bombings in Kosovo. Any kind of readily apparent, large-scale human rights violations should be dealt with as swiftly and decisively as possible. But naming genocide as the main reason for our presence in Kosovo reveals much about American foreign policy and our attitude toward the non-European world.

High estimates place the number of Kosovars killed in the hundreds of thousands. But in the past 30 years alone, we have seen the genocidal-type massacre of millions in Cambodia, Rwanda and in scores of other countries across the world.

If we're in Kosovo to stop genocide, how come we never went to any of these countries? Human rights are supposedly universal.

TOPIC
Genocide is going on globally, not just in the Balkans.

OUR OPINION
If we interfere with Kosovo, we should stop genocide globally.

Political and geographic considerations shouldn't come into play. But by pleading humanitarianism, the United States and NATO are showing that they do.

The risking of American lives for the human rights of Kosovars reveals how Eurocentric our foreign policy is. It's not until the plague of genocide comes back to Europe that we start to take any action.

This type of hypocrisy shows how prejudiced, even racist, American foreign policy can be. Right now, the short list of those whose human rights we are willing to defend is limited to peoples of European descent. That's prejudice.

Of course, this appeal to conscience could just be an attempt to convince a reluctant American public to get involved in yet another foreign conflict.

In this case, our policy isn't really that prejudiced, just ill-conceived. But then our calls for humanitarian action are an insult to the millions who have died because of genocide.

Donation of eggs a fragile problem

An ad recently taken out in a major paper offered \$50,000 for a tall, blue-eyed blonde with 1400-plus on the SAT to donate some of her eggs to an infertile couple.

Genetic engineering is an issue far too complicated to be deeply addressed in the space of an editorial, but this incident bears comment.

We don't wish to universally condemn genetic scientists and engineers for their work, for it's valuable to medical science and could potentially have a positive impact on society. And we find no controversy in the financial compensation of such a "donation"; people, after all, are paid for sperm and plasma, as well.

What concerns us is the potential emergence of a financially determined meritocracy, a world in which some people, the privileged, are ruling the world by virtue of superior intelligence or talent. Our capitalist system is to some extent meritocratic because leaders in all areas tend to be smarter or more talented than the

TOPIC
"Superior" people are selling their genetic material.

OUR OPINION
Such practice leads to a dangerous path; we need to think now.

rest of us. Now even merit may be bought -- and thus power.

A capitalist society already stacks the cards somewhat at birth, although democracy attempts to make fair the odds as much as possible. Now the cards may be stacked before conception, for those who have the dough.

Furthermore, are we willing to risk, for example, the further marginalization of a Down's syndrome child because, in society's view, he or she could have been avoided? When genetic advantage is for sale, what happens to those who don't pony up?

Where are the bioethicists? In the news, we hear what is happening and what is about to happen; we do not hear definitive statements on what should be happening. Those quoted in the media say only that it's a big gray area and that we need to think about it some more before a real problem starts.

The real problem has started. The time to decide is now.



Cars raise issues, questions for students

A car. The word has quite a few meanings: freedom, adulthood, independence, impressing your



GUERMAN ABAEV
columnist

friends and the opposite sex, and, of course, pains in the rear from tickets, suspended licenses, parking spots, and rising gas prices complicated by gas guzzlers some of you

may own. Cars were created as a means of transportation. Since then, their concept has come a long way from that somewhat boring use to marking wealth and status, as well as being a powerful mating tool. In short, cars have become so important that some people consider them parts of their bodies that have merged with their behinds as a result of natural evolution.

Since there are so many vehicles on the market, the legitimate question of which to drive is never off the agenda. To solve this burning issue, a bunch

of factors must be considered. First (or for some, last) comes the question of dough. No surprise that most undergrads, heavily depending on parents' limited donations, don't spend much time solving this issue: They ride bicycles. It's not just healthy; unless a more fortunate undergrad with a fresh license driving an actual car hits you, it's tough to get a ticket from driving a human-powered bike.

Some more independent and entrepreneurial students, desperately fighting for extra cash by selling junk food in the summer, do overcome the price obstacle and find affordable sets of four wheels. Then they proudly drive senior citizens' 1972 Caddy and Oldsmobile barges, pre-owned by relatives, that usually carry a heavy load of hard-rock, athletic and sex-oriented stickers to make the dying monsters, just five stickers short of pimpmobile, look a little younger.

But let's say your parents are loaded and love you to death, or you're a Wall Street genius or Bill Gates-to-be. Which car to choose? Of course, a neat nerdmobile such as a Ford Festiva or even a Saturn is not a choice. A successful male would go for a car like a Jag or a BMW sports coupe, specifically designed to serve as fox traps.

"Sometimes, however, Wranglers seem to be driven by guys with beer bellies, desperately looking for models."

More adventurous men go for Jeep Wranglers, with their conveniently upholstered protection frames, around which are supposed to cluster swimsuit models, as seen in Hollywood movies. Sometimes, however, Wranglers seem to be driven by guys with beer bellies, desperately looking for models. Adventurous men with cash to burn drive so-called SUVs ("Show-off Use Vehicles"), such as the Caddy Escalade or Lexus RX300. I'm sure those machines can easily race through the country and climb a muddy hill like typical 4WDs, but I wonder how often the people who buy those cars really do that kind of stuff. I don't think it's that often. So all the big bucks these guys pay mainly go for, besides trapping babes, the privilege of laughing hysterically at people driving old Volkswagen Beetles and Toyotas.

But of course, it wouldn't be PC to fail to mention what the fair sex is up to in driving. Elegant and financially fortunate ladies seem to opt for rag-

top Benzes and Beemers. I don't really know if they are supposed to serve as hunk traps. I guess they must work as repellents of less-fortunate guys.

I'm especially curious as to why so many people buy vans. If you want to transport stuff, buy a truck; if you want to make out, go to a motel. Speaking of making out in a car: In the movies, Kevin Costner and Sean Young did it in a taxi in Washington, D.C. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet did it in a car below deck on Titanic. But from now on in Italy, sex in the back seat could get you three years in jail. Wow! And Italy is supposed to be the country of passionate lovers!

In every age, some feather is more important than another. Maybe once you are a happy senior citizen in Florida, security is the most important one. But while you're still a student, you probably have different priorities. So no matter what you drive, as long as it has a big leather back seat, you're OK. Happy trails.

U.S. only country able to solve Balkan crisis

I am ashamed of the ignorance, apathy and lack of interest the vast majority of Americans have toward the current NATO war with Serbia over Kosovo.



DAVID NEWSOM
guest columnist

After seeing in the media the images of ethnic cleansing and genocide that Serbia's dictator Slobodan Milosevic has most recently unleashed, I would hope that more of the public would be galvanized to support stronger military action, including the use of ground troops if necessary, to reverse Milosevic's brutal policies and perhaps even to destroy and remove his regime.

Many Americans have voiced fears of another Vietnam if we deploy ground troops to Kosovo. This fear has been skillfully manipulated and exploited in the media as a warning to stay out from Milosevic's propaganda. This is far from the truth. He exploited ethnic tensions by using the media to seize power and to unleash the genocidal wars that rav-

aged Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Now, he is doing the same in Kosovo. It would be unfortunate if he manipulates the American people into giving up. But in the past few days, it appears he has done just that by cleansing Kosovars and parading captured American prisoners of war on television.

The truth is that this war has more similarities with the appeasement of Nazi aggression of the 1930s and the genocide of the Holocaust that followed than with the Vietnam quagmire. Since 1991, the politicians in the West have chosen a policy of appeasement toward Milosevic, in order to avoid military involvement, with devastating consequences. However, this latest crisis in Kosovo could unleash a tinderbox in southeastern Europe, threatening the peace and stability of the region. If the West had acted much sooner, military intervention might have been avoided, Milosevic might have backed down or dissident forces might have ousted him and pushed Serbia toward democratization. Now, the leaders of the West have finally decided they are no longer willing to appease this fascist aggressor, forcing NATO into a war with Serbia.

Many Americans still think we don't have a place in this conflict. "It's a European problem; it's in Europe's back

"How many more must suffer from our inaction and cowardice in the face of genocidal aggression?"

yard," they argue. But Europe proved highly incapable of stopping Milosevic's earlier genocidal wars in Bosnia and Croatia. Only by using American military power, through NATO, was the war in Bosnia brought to a close.

Thankfully, this time, our European allies are prepared to take a much greater role alongside the United States to prosecute this war to its inevitable victory. If the need for ground troops does arise, the overwhelming majority of such a force will most likely be European, though some ground forces would have to be American.

Prosecuting a ground war would not be easy. NATO might expect casualties in the hundreds or thousands, including some Americans. But this pales in comparison with the hundreds of thousands of lives already lost and millions destroyed by Milosevic's lust for power. How many more must suffer from our inaction and cowardice in the face of genocidal aggression?

Unfortunately, many Americans fail to recognize what is at stake for America. First, there is our credibility. If we back down and let Milosevic win, this will send a signal everywhere that America is unwilling to fight aggression if there is a risk of casualties, endangering American security in places like Iraq and North Korea. Second, failure to act will destroy the NATO alliance. What is the relevance of NATO in the post-Cold War world if not to engage in collective security on the European continent? If NATO can't stand up to Milosevic, there is no longer any point to having it. Third, failure to defeat Milosevic will be a sign that America has turned its back on the liberal democratic ideals for which it has fought and sacrificed many lives in the two world wars and the Cold War to bring peace and lasting stability to Europe.

Why come so far to abandon Europe now? If it is the inability to accept the necessary risks involved, then Milosevic has already won.

SUBMISSIONS

Letters to the editor or guest columns are welcome from all members of the Carolina community. Letters should be 250-300 words. Guest columns should be an opinion piece of about 600-700 words. Both must include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. Handwritten submissions must be personally delivered to Russell House room 333. E-mail submissions must include telephone number for confirmation. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space. Names will never be withheld. Photos are required for guest columnist and can be provided by the submitter. Call 777-7726 for more information.

USC research to state, students

To the Editor:
I am a professor teaching English in the Transition Year Program. Thanks for your thoughtful editorial on the need for a program like this at a school in a state where the norm is SAT scores below the average. I think of the students I have from CA Johnson High, from

Mullins, from Marion, from other really weak schools, who nonetheless are performing incredibly well once they are exposed to challenging material and good teaching. Sure, these kids could have gone to a local technical school, but then these students probably wouldn't fulfill their potentials.

As a professor in this program since its inception, I can vouch for the fact that we have had outstanding kids fin-

ish our program and go on to successfully graduate from ALL colleges at USC, including the Honors College. One student who transferred from our program to the Honors College is now applying to medical schools. Another, one of your regular writers, is typical of our good students.

The administrators making these decisions are working with abstractions; those of us teaching these students know the reality.

By the way, USC research tells us that the SAT predicts only about 11 percent to 15 percent of performance. Again, thanks for realizing that a flagship university has a responsibility to its state.

Harriett Williams
Transition Year Program

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The Gamecock is the student newspaper of The University of South Carolina and is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and five times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of The University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization.

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