

Editorial

There is no honor in U.S. intervention

The French were entrenched in Vietnam for years because of it. The United States also was entrenched there for years because of it. And now, we are entrenching ourselves again for that ever elusive ideal — honor.

It took the French years to realize they could not control a nation that did not obey or recognize their authority. It took years after that to realize that honor could never be regained and that Vietnam could not be subdued. Similarly, President Lyndon Johnson would not pull out U.S. troops after his cabinet told him the difficulties of "winning" a war in Vietnam. He simply did not want to be the first president to lose a war.

Now, President Reagan has vowed to revenge the deaths of more than 200 Marines killed in Lebanon because its the "honorable" thing to do.

But who do we smite with our retribution? There are a myriad of factions warring in that miserable country. Who do we retaliate against? The Syrians? The Druse? The Shi'ites?

None of those factions want us there. Only a shaky, temporary at best, "supportive government" appreciates our presence. As in Vietnam, most of the country's people don't want us there. We can bomb them, napalm them and cut them down with machine guns, but that won't stop them from resisting.

Honor is moot in Lebanon. Indeed, honor and war have little, if anything to do with each other. We lost honor when the first Marines set foot in Lebanon.

We do not belong in Lebanon, or El Salvador, or Grenada. It simply is not our place to tell other countries what is good for them, or to force it on them. Reagan justifies his actions by saying we cannot let these people be dominated by "terrorist thugs" and that we, meaning the Marines and troops, cannot be pushed around by these hoodlums once we move in.

Although the Soviet-backed governments may be brutal, is it any better or more honorable for us to invade and impose our will on these countries? No one has appointed us the righteous keepers of the world. We degrade the values of free will and self-determination when we force our will on others.

The world view of the United States can only be deteriorating. Instead of fearing what might happen if countries saw us withdraw, we should fear what they think of us invading and subverting. Our country can only be seen as greedy, imperialistic and brutal as long as the current hit-the-commies-before-they-hit-us policy exists.

We should seek to avoid forcing our will on others. Few United States citizens would let the Soviets invade New Jersey and impose communist rule. Why should we expect the Grenadans, El Salvadoreans or Lebanese to tolerate our presence?

— Chris Welsh



'I say chap, 'ow 'bout a tour?'

London — What a rewarding two weeks of sight-seeing! I don't wish to boast but I do believe that when it comes to notching up sights in the old journal we can hold our own with any tourist group extant (excluding, of course, Germans).



Arthur Hoppe

I fear, though, that my dear wife, Glynda, may be coming to the end of her tether. Take yesterday. I had planned an exciting two-hour bus ride down through Magdalene (pronounced "Maudlin") Commons, across Gloucestershireingham (pronounced "Glum") Green, past quaint Ll'wyn'ginn'flygll (pronounced "Ll'wyn'ginn'flygll") to the famed tourist mecca of Wapping-on-Ende (pronounced "Admission 50 pence").

Glynda said she'd prefer looking at vacuum cleaners at Harrod's. But she relented at last when I told

her this was the last sight we'd see in England. And I must say she proved a good sport when we finally reached our destination and I pulled out my trusty "Guidebook for Serious-Minded Strollers."

"As we pass over the 18th century Bridge of Penitent Tinkers," I read aloud to her, "we come on our left to a large gray rock which, some antiquarians believe, was employed by the ancient Druids in their inexplicable mass cuticle paring ceremonies held on the night of the crescent moon nearest the vernal equinox."

Glynda nodded. "That is a rock," she said. "By making a right through Will Copplesgate's Gate (circa 1073)," I continued, "we will see a pile of seven rounded stones which are all that remain of The Great Wall of Commulus the Leaner, the Roman commander of what is now Southeast Wessex."

"That is a pile," said Glynda. "Leaving the Municipal Waterworks (1922) on our left hand," I read, "our path leads us to Muckmore & Basket's Gravel Quarry, site of the well-chronicled Topping Tower of Tuppermore."

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Campus Quotes

Should the Marines be pulled out of Lebanon?



Mike Pearl
graduate student
theater arts
"No, they're there to do a job and until the job is done, so far as foreign policy is concerned, we should see it through."



Tim Innocent
freshman
electrical engineering
"Yes, I think they should be brought home right now. The country (Lebanon) is in such a state of lawlessness, with all these groups and factions, that we're not going to be able to maintain it."



Rita Farris
graduate student
marketing
"Initially I thought they should pull out, but now I think we should let the people know who's boss. We really need to watch events like this to plan the Lebanon and Grenada."



Conde Schenck
graduate student
engineering
"Yes, I don't think they had any business there in the first place."



Brian Kramer
junior
exercise science
"I believe that it's in the best interest of the United States they should be there. If there is a chance over there, we need to get them full withdrawal, so they can't come back."

Staff photos by Joel Gertner