

# The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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## Reagan's plan

President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace proposal should ensure that the United States will take a more active role in developing a lasting settlement in that war-torn region. Before the plan can become a reality, however, the Reagan administration must first accept the added responsibility of bringing to the negotiating table Israel and her Arab neighbors.

The president's plan, announced last week, met with immediate criticism and rejection by Israel and only mild acceptance from most Arab countries. But by proposing the eventual creation of an independent Palestinian state, the president reaffirmed the basic principles of the Camp David accords and made possible a lasting peace for the Middle East.

The administration has much work ahead if it is to keep the peace process moving forward and must overcome strong Israeli objections to the plan. Under Reagan's proposal, Israel would be forced to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, while also placing an immediate freeze on the number of Jewish settlements being established there.

What has angered Israel even more is the proposal for an autonomous Palestinian state. Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon has said that his country never will accept such a state along the West Bank; and, in a diplomatic slap in the face to the president, Israel Sunday appropriated \$18.5 million for three new Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

However, Israel cannot be the lone target of the president's peace initiative. Arab nations should finally recognize Israel's right to exist peacefully. That lack of recognition, more than any other issue, was a sticking point in the Camp David accords.

So far only Egypt has officially said that the plan has some good points and only Egypt seems ready to begin negotiations. Other Arab nations, in a summit meeting this week, hinted about a response. None of the countries have yet taken a formal stand.

Israel is right to question the plan; after all, it should not be forced to accept a Palestinian state near its border when the Arabs will not even recognize its right to exist. A Palestinian state under such conditions would likely be a threat to Israeli national security. That is why Reagan also is calling for Arab recognition of Israel.

Israel's rejection of the plan and a statement by a Palestine Liberation Organization leader calling on Arab countries to "wipe out" Israel, shows how important the American proposals will be to future negotiations. During the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Israel said its only goal was to eliminate foreign forces from that country. But recently Israel has pressured Lebanon to sign a peace treaty, a move that has raised Arab suspicion. The implication is that if Lebanon does not sign, Israeli troops will not withdraw.

Israel should agree to pull out of Lebanon and stop the introduction of new Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab regions. Equally important, Arab nations must agree that Israel is, and will remain, a permanent fixture in the Middle East. Only after those steps have been taken can any peace talks have a chance for success. The United States cannot afford to present its plan, and then sit idly by, hoping the Israelis and the Arabs will agree to talk.

## Incredible pass

UNC students, don't take a bow. Forget the curtain call. There won't be any standing ovation.

In the past students have gotten away with poor attendance at productions by the Playmakers Repertory Company. At last year's plays, less than 10 percent of the audience was students.

It doesn't make sense. Only a handful of campuses nationwide have professional repertory companies on campus. The professionals have brought big name actors to campus and performed new plays sometimes later seen on Broadway.

Well, no more of this. This year, members of the company have created "The Incredible Student Pass." For only \$15, students can see five plays. With PRC single tickets for a play averaging \$7.50 on weekdays and \$9.50 on weekends, it's a great buy. It's any play, any time.

In anticipation of the season's opening Sept. 22, Chapel Hill town officials have declared this week as Playmakers Repertory Company Week. Beginning with the musical *Life on the Mississippi*, the season will include *Pymaglion*, a comedy by George Bernard Shaw and *The Greeks*, the Royal Shakespeare Company's interpretation of the Greek play cycles.

The scripts are assigned, the costumes made. The season is set. But so far only 55 students have bought the new pass. When the box office opens today, about 450 tickets will be left.

Don't wait till the last minute. Rush to the box office, stand in line and write a check.  
Break a leg.

## The Bottom Line

Spud soiree

One potato, two potato, three potato, four. Five potato, six potato — nine tons more.

Florida has its Orange Bowl, Texas its Cotton Bowl, so naturally the folks in Grand Forks, N.C. felt they had to go all the way to attract some more attention to their Potato Bowl.

With the help of radio station KNOX, they came up with an 18,260-pound serving of mashed spuds from the Red River Valley's potato-producing region.

Their concoction required 3,755 pounds of flaked potatoes, 1,600 gallons of water, 100 pounds of butter and 25 pounds of parsley. They left out what probably would have been another ton of salt.

KNOX program director John French said he would submit results of the event to the *Guinness Book of World Records*. The book now lists a 10,286-pound portion as the pinnacle of mashed potatoedom.

While it may have looked tasty, the mixture was not intended for human consumption. After a few onlookers stuck in their fingers to

sample it, the glop was trucked to a nearby farm and fed to a buffalo herd.

Uninvited guest

Ever been sitting around your apartment or dorm room studying for an exam or just relaxing when all of a sudden you hear a knock at the door and you find yourself host to some uninvited guests who make themselves at home?

It seems a 6-foot python greeted a pair of French tourists when they checked into their room at a hotel in San Diego, but the two tourists took the uninvited guest in stride.

"Sir, there is a snake in the room," hotel manager Wayne Liebhart quoted Christian Aita as saying when the nonchalant tourist came back to the front desk.

"It was just sitting there, right on top of the dresser, all coiled up and its head sticking out," Liebhart said. Police soon arrived and carried the reptile off in a pillow case.

"I thought they would want a refund," Liebhart said. "But they decided to stay on."  
And that'ssss the bottom line.

# At first, there's just pain

By ARCHER GILLIAM

Suddenly a phone call comes. You never expected it. How do you deal with the words, "They've done exploratory surgery on your mother; she has lung cancer?" How do you deal with this knowledge when you're across an ocean, 3,000 miles away from home? How could you deal with it even if you had heard all the coughing and witnessed all the trips to the doctor, had been right there?

The first thing that comes is a pain, a weight on your own chest, as if the awful sickness had somehow found its way to you. You feel as if you yourself are dying. You want to die. There's a huge black empty hole somewhere deep inside you. You hate everyone and everything, you want to scream and hit, scratch, bite, flail out, punish SOMEONE for doing this to her. Why to her? She never deserved it.

What can you do so very far away? Should you leave, when you have almost finished your one year of studying abroad? And even if you stay, can you go on living with yourself? You can't — not without constantly thinking of her there, in that huge impersonal hospital, in pain, all doped up, lying so sick without your special help. You never can get the image out of your head, even when you're exploring the Costa del Sol of Spain, or hanging

out at "Discoteca La Reja," or watching a bullfight in Seville.

So you learn to live in spite of the awful fear, the feeling that something dreadful will happen and no one will let you know in time. You find out what time planes leave for America so as to save time if she suddenly worsens and you have to leave. You go about the

*You hate everyone and everything, you want to scream and hit, scratch, bite, flail out, punish SOMEONE for doing this to her ... you want to question someone, whoever it is who's supposed to be there listening, 'Why?'*

business of attending classes, meeting the natives, speaking the language, learning to understand the culture. For after all, that was the object of going away in the first place and you know your mother would want you to go about your business in spite of her. You manage to hide your hopelessness from your friends, most of the time, and present a reasonably normal facade to the world.

Yet you've always got that black creature tearing up your insides, clapping a deathgrip on your heart.

Walking down the street, it suddenly grabs hold of you and you just want to cry. You're at the beach with friends and you realize with awful desperation that she might never again see the ocean that she loves so much. Sitting in a church service, you want to question someone, whoever it is who's supposed to be there listening, "Why?" You wonder again and again if you should go home, but then what could you really do there anyway? Nothing seems to matter much anymore. How can you obliviously drink and dance away at the Spring Fair of Feria, knowing that she's too weak to even walk across a room?

And in the end there's really no answer. No one can help you through it; you must help yourself. You must find your own strength. Life and health and living become very important. And a mighty strong lesson comes to you: live and breathe and strive for the best TODAY, for you never know what tomorrow will bring.

Archer Gilliam, a senior International Studies major from Atlanta, Ga., spent her junior year in Seville, Spain.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Block seating policy tightened up

To the editor:

The CAA Ticket Commission has approved for this year three changes that will alleviate past problems in the distribution of block seats for football games.

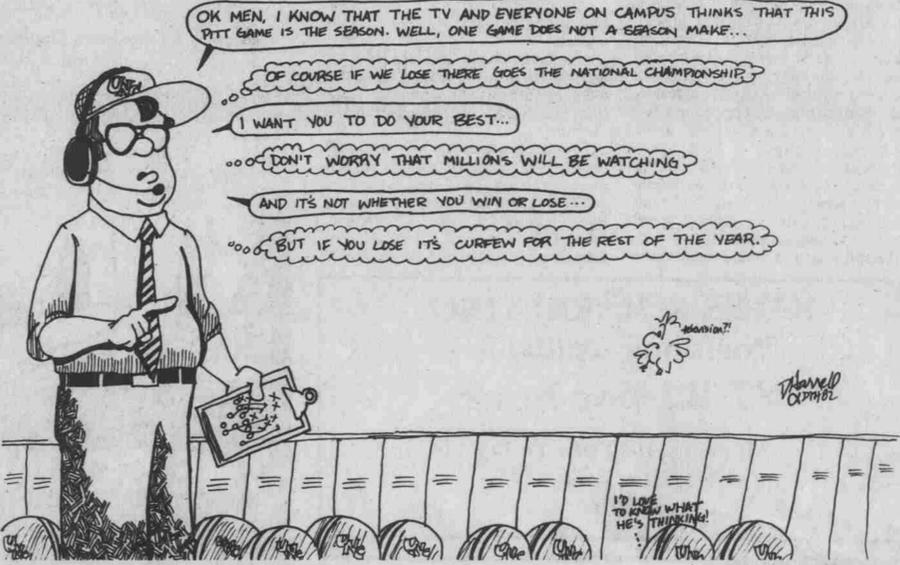
1) Block seats will be awarded in a random drawing. In the past, block seats were distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, resulting in long lines that caused students to miss classes. An additional problem with the past system was that larger groups had an advantage over smaller groups in that they had more members to take turns standing in line. This year a member from each group requesting a block will sign up his group on the Monday morning prior to the game at the Carmichael ticket office. A group may request up to two tickets for each name on its roster (see below). If a group fails to pick up at least 60 percent of the tickets it requests, it will not be allowed to request block seating for any future game.

The drawing will take place Monday afternoon, continuing until half of all the tickets allotted to students are used for block seats or until all groups have received blocks. Results will be posted at Carmichael by Monday evening.

2) There will be a mandatory token system. In the past, students were able to pick up seats in a block assigned to a group to which they did not belong. This year, group members will have to present a token of their choice and unique to their group in order to pick up their tickets. A copy or photograph (not just a written description) of the token should be presented to the ticket office on Monday when the group applies for block seating.

The token may be changed each week at the group's discretion. Anyone possessing the group's token may pick up seats in that block; the rosters of group members' names will not be used in distributing block seats. It is therefore important that group members keep their token a secret, so that non-members cannot use it to pick up seats in the group's block. A student may pick up two tickets on the Tuesday prior to the game.

3) In order to be eligible to apply for block seats on Monday, groups must have first turned in a roster containing the names of its members. In the past, there was a problem of the same group signing up for two different blocks using two different group names and then using only the seats in the better block. This was a problem even when students had to stand in line to sign up for each block and we



anticipated even more of a problem of this kind after we decided to implement the random drawings and thus reduce the line for block seats.

Therefore, to prevent the same group from signing up for two or more blocks, each group desiring a block will be required to turn in a roster of at least 10, but not more than 50 names of its members to the ticket office by the Friday eight days prior to the first game for which the group desires a block. Thus groups requesting block seats for the Vanderbilt game must turn in their rosters by this Friday.

The CAA will then check the lists to make sure that no two rosters are the same. Once again, these rosters are for CAA use only and will not be used by the ticket office in distributing tickets. If the group's membership changes during the season, the group may add names to its roster, or turn in a new roster.

Please feel free to come by or call the CAA office (962-4300) if you have any questions.

George De Loache  
Ticket Commission

## Open your eyes

To the editor:

The concept of being a "preppie" seems to be a way of pretending that you are still in "prep" school (the apparent origin of the word) and therefore still preparing for college. The valuable editorial space of our university's newspaper should be written for people already attending college and provide useful insight for them.

So what if you have staffers that are, gasp, in fraternities and sororities, ("Preps for Rent," DTH, Sept. 8). I am, gasp, in a fraternity. That doesn't mean that I want to read about how innovative it is to have Greek members on the DTH staff or how some people think that dressing in expensive cute clothes and doing odd jobs is somehow worthy of editorial space. There are many more important things to write about. Open your eyes.

Ned Irvine  
Chapel Hill

## Apology owed

To the editor:

In three silly sentences Jason E. Dowdle has managed to exhibit both a vicious bigotry and a contempt for history, "Israel at fault" (DTH, Sept. 7). *The Daily Tar Heel* owes all readers an apology for publishing such anti-Semitic trash as: "Hitler created a monster." Such thoughtless stuff surely deserves no place in a responsible newspaper.

Daniel S. Silver  
Chapel Hill

*The Daily Tar Heel* welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns to the editorial pages. All contributions should be typed, triple spaced on a 60-space line and are subject to editing. Column writers should include their majors and hometowns. Each letter should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Jews just want a home

By RITA S. WOLFGANG

I am responding to the letter "Israel at fault" (DTH, Sept. 7) written by Joseph E. Dowdle. I feel that Dowdle shows a great lack of knowledge about the history of the settlement of Israel and the Jewish people, besides a lack of knowledge about the present situation. I would like to clarify a few things so that insensitive, uninformed and apparently prejudiced statements like "Hitler created a monster" and the "jackboot is on the other foot" will not be printed again.

When Jews came to Palestine in the late 1800's and early 1900's, they bought land from Arab farmers at highly exorbitant prices in order to establish collective farms. There are receipts in Israeli, British and even Jordanian historical archives which prove that these lands were bought honestly. The objective of these Jews was simply to lead a peaceful life in the historical homeland of their forefathers. A growing anti-Semitism was evident in Europe and reached a fever during the trial of Alfred Dreyfus in 1895. The Jews were inspired to come to Palestine by Theodor Herzl, considered to be the father of modern Zionism.

Herzl was a reporter at the Dreyfus trial and quickly realized that the only way that Jews would not be persecuted would be if they had a land to call their own. Many places were considered — even African areas — but Palestine seemed the logical place, having such strong historical and religious meaning to the Jewish people. Anyone who knows the history of the Jewish people recognizes that the Jews were exiled from Palestine by the Romans in 70 A.D. Since that time, the Jews have been shuffled from land to land, used by European governments and grossly persecuted by the Church. After thousands of years of persecution, it is only understandable that the Jews would want peace.

Having bought this land, the Jewish settlers were able to change it from a malaria-infested swamp into a productive area. This was due to their European education and their knowledge of modern agriculture and scientific techniques. These lands had lain barren in Arab hands for hundreds of years, and the Arabs were very jealous of the success of these settlers. They cruelly and ruthlessly slaughtered hundreds of men, women and children who were living on these legally-bought lands just because they succeeded where the Arabs hadn't.

The Arabs, with their already growing oil power,

pushed the British colonial government of Palestine into forbidding the entrance of further Jewish settlers into the area. By then, Nazism was in full swing in Germany. Hundreds of boatloads of Jews were turned back from the shores of Palestine and sent back to the gas chambers and death camps of Europe.

The British were put in a very awkward position. They needed the oil that the Arab countries could offer them for their war effort, yet felt a moral obligation to the thousands of Jews who were being innocently killed in Europe. Finally, they pulled out of Palestine and let the newly-formed United Nations determine the future of the area. On Nov. 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to partition the land of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state.

*There are innocent victims in any war — what about all the victims in Vietnam and Hiroshima? ... Israel felt that the time had come when enough was enough — the PLO murders had to be stopped.*

The Arabs were not satisfied. They didn't like the idea of sharing land with the Jews. The Arab nations of Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and volunteers from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Libya declared war against Israel, vowing to "push the Jews into the sea." Arab propaganda warned the Arab population living in Israel to leave, creating stories not based on any past evidence as to what the Israelis would do to them. These people fled to Jordan and settled on what is now known as the West Bank.

These Arab refugees lived under horrible conditions for 19 years. Their Arab brethren didn't take care of them. They had no schooling, sanitary conditions, housing or medical care. They were used as pawns to show the world the awful thing that Israel had done, when in fact these people left under their own free will because of the rumors spread by their Arab leaders.

In 1967, when these lands were taken over by Israel after the Six-Day War, these people finally were given the chance to lead a decent life. I was a student in Israel for four years. Many of my friends were Arabs. If you asked them about their lives before the Israeli occupation

all of them would tell you that their lives were much better now. It is the Arabs who live outside of Israel, who never have been to Israel, that are victims of Palestine Liberation Organization propaganda.

The PLO does not care about the average Arab citizen. The Arabs interviewed by American television journalists in Lebanon were glad to see the PLO go. The PLO used the Lebanese population as a means to gain its own political ends. Thousands of Lebanese were ruthlessly murdered when they would not donate their houses and businesses to the PLO. How many times did the PLO raid northern Israeli towns from Lebanon, killing innocent children at Ma'alot, Netanya and innocent victims at the Munich Games in 1973? What about the Jews outside of Israel that the PLO has murdered in European countries? How can the PLO hide behind the lie of wanting only a Palestinian state for its people when it murders Jews around the world? Who truly is wearing a "jackboot?"

If members of the PLO want Israel to talk to them like human beings, then they must begin treating Israeli citizens like human beings and recognize their right to exist. Many people, like myself, do not necessarily agree with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's settlement tactics. But if you were an Israeli, a Jew, who simply wanted to live in peace in the land of his forefathers and had seen friends and family killed year after year by the PLO raids, you would probably be over-defensive too.

There are innocent victims in any war — what about all the victims in Vietnam and Hiroshima? If the Lebanese had not allowed the PLO to use their homeland as a base, their lives might have been saved. Israel felt that the time had come when enough was enough — the PLO murders had to be stopped. Many Israelis also died throughout the years, just because they lived in Israel. The Lebanese people were forewarned that this would happen, which is much more than the Jews ever were by Hitler.

I would suggest to people like Dowdle that before writing such uninformed letters to the *Daily Tar Heel*, they make an effort to understand the situation in the Middle East. Dowdle has obviously never been to Israel or Lebanon. The "monster" that he speaks of is really the prejudice created by the lack of knowledge that exists in his own mind.

Rita S. Wolfgang is a Jewish educator in Chapel Hill.