

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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Criticism of Israel defended

By JASON E. DOWDLE

Apparently it is not possible to criticize the Israelis or Israel without being slapped with the ignorant and insulting label of anti-Semite. Such is easy, requiring little effort and no thought. I expected better, and would like to thank Rita Wolfgang for her thoughtful response, though I must take issue with it.

Did the Israelis take the Palestinians' land? Perhaps not by armed force, but look at the facts. Who held the land, through many generations, up to 75 years ago? Who holds it now? Did the Palestinians give up self-determination willingly? Of course not.

But didn't the Israelis have prior claim? True, the ancient Jews, none of whom were still alive in 1947, were exiled from Palestine 1900 years ago. But while I would never deny the modern Jews their unquestionable right to a homeland and a national identity, I submit that there are hardly a handful of peoples or cultures now occupying the

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lands they held 2000 years ago. What I mean is that such things as prior claim get very confusing when one looks closely. Did not the Hebrews originally take the land by force themselves? What if the American Indians prevailed on the United Nations to partition the United States? The simple fact is that no such claim has absolute authority,

and all carry some weight.

Is it possible to criticize the Israeli government as simply one of many governments, rather than as a representative of the entire Jewish race? It is generally conceded that the Middle East is the trouble spot in the world today, that if another major war breaks out, it will probably start there, and that any small incident can be the one that suddenly escalates and makes all these arguments about as pointless as ash. Thus, one would expect, or at least desperately hope, that the leaders in the area would have some perception of the enormity of the responsibility for humanity which has been laid on them by fate. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the general case.

Except for Menachem Begin. He, more than all the rest, seems acutely aware of his pivotal place in history. Indeed he toys with it, believing, perhaps rightly, that the fate of humanity rests directly in his hands. Begin began his political career as a terrorist, fighting covertly against the British before the partition in 1947. I submit that he is still a terrorist, becoming yearly more intoxicated with power, placing his highly questionable ideas of what is in the national interest of his small state above the need to insure the survival of humanity. Indeed he is holding the rest of the world hostage, using his position to promote and expand his state's interests far beyond what is necessary for its survival and security, flaunting both friends and enemies alike.

No feeling person can condone the Palestine Liberation Organization's actions. As a state, Israel has a right to exist, and to protect the safety and security of its citizens. But does it have the right to use weapons sold to it by us under the strict conditions that they be used only for defense, for offensive actions and against civilians? (Cluster bombs are but one small example.) Or does Israel have the right to deprive 400,000 civilians of food, water, shelter, medicine, and safety in order to punish 5,000 Palestinians, terrorists though they were? Or should it use American fighter-planes to bomb civilian areas, and to invade Syria's airspace and destroy its only nuclear facility? (June, 1981) Does it have the right to toy with the very

survival of humanity? These are the questions Begin must answer, to his own people and to the world.

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The monster that Hitler created is not the Israeli state. The monster is the attitude of the government of that state...that it is, by reason of past persecution, now exempt from international and humanitarian responsibilities.

state, that it exists by special dispensation, that it is, by reason of past persecution, now exempt from international and humanitarian responsibilities, and that its goals and needs somehow supercede those of all other people. Of course the Israeli government wants peace — all governments do when it suits them. But do they want peace for all men, or just for themselves, and will they get it by fighting?

Finally, I ask, who wear the uniforms of occupation on the West Bank? Who are the military police and who are the military governors? Who have inserted their settlements like colonies into a hostile land held for centuries by another people, for the purpose of making it their own? Odd that a people so oppressed and abused throughout history would not have come to understand the nature of oppression: that it is wrong no matter who does it to whom for whatever reason, and now find themselves in the position of the oppressor.

Or is it odd? I am reminded of several lines of a poem by the late W.H. Auden, written just on the eve of World War II: "I and the public know/What every schoolboy learns/Those to whom evil is done/Do evil in return."

Jason E. Dowdle is a 1980 graduate from the UNC department of anthropology.

Test fails test

All North Carolina high school students must pass a reading and math competency exam to receive a high school diploma. Last week the state Competency Commission recommended that a writing test should be added to the competency exam. While the proposal has merit, the state would be better to attack illiteracy before it develops by spending more money on well-qualified teachers to teach reading and writing.

Under the proposed plan, which is supported by Gov. Jim Hunt, 10th grade students would have to use proper punctuation and writing mechanics in the test. They also would be required to write a paragraph that logically supports a position and a telephone message that conveys information from a caller.

Those skills are worth testing. But the test has two fundamental flaws. The first is that it would be subjectively graded. Two teachers would mark each writing sample, and if they disagreed, a third would make the final decision. This kind of subjective grading could not be enforced equally across the state.

The second problem with the test is its cost: about \$750,000 to administer the test to the 85,000 students who will be in the 10th grade in 1984-85. The current competency test, which is graded by computer, costs only about \$110,000 a year to administer, so the proposed writing test calls for a large increase in spending.

At a time when the state is losing many of its best elementary and high school teachers because of low salaries, the N.C. Legislature's highest educational priority should go to hiking salaries and hiring better qualified teachers. Competency tests serve a purpose, and a writing competency test may someday be refined and become a valuable tool. But now the state should concentrate on teaching students reading and writing before they take a writing test, not after.

No sale

UNC visitors have the right to remain silent. Put down the bumper stickers, hang up the T-shirts, and leave by the nearest exit. You've broken the law. The Umstead Act says so. Good-bye.

Under the 40-year-old law, the Student Stores cannot compete with Chapel Hill merchants. As part of the UNC system, they can only sell to those affiliated with the University. That means non-students, families of non-students, non-workers and families of non-workers, can forget that James Worthy poster they wanted to buy.

It's a no-sell situation. But so far, no one seems to know about the law. Student Stores workers can't remember the last time it was enforced. And future enforcement may be as difficult as counting the pairs of blue-suede clogs in the Pit at noon. Ignorance will be no excuse. A green sign on the Student Stores' windows should frighten away all prospective violators.

If not, perhaps Student Stores officials could copy the ARA food service budget plan. Students could deposit large amounts of money into individual accounts and wield plastic cards at the check out counters. Of course, there wouldn't be any refunds.

Or perhaps they could copy the system used by the Undergraduate Library. Every student would be tagged with metal detectors placed just inside the doors. No tag, and it's zap — Good-bye.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PCB dump may still leak

To the editor:

Suggesting that the state "guarantee that the area's water table will be checked for quality on a frequent basis," "Dumping grounds" (DTH, Sept. 14), is typical of the logic the state leaders have repeated to Warren County citizens concerned about the PCBs. The trouble is that EPA approved landfills leak!

I live beside state highway 158 and for the past four years I have watched the grass on the roadside grow where PCBs were illegally dumped in 1978. I do not know about the other 210 miles of roadsides, but the soil in front of my house has eroded and the cancer-causing toxic has washed downstream. The grass has returned to its normal color and I don't worry about the problem of the chemical. Yet our fine leadership in Raleigh believes that the soil is a health hazard. If so, why has nothing been done before now to solve the problem?

Newsweek magazine labels the situation as "Hunt's Folly." The establishment of the treatment sight alienates Gov. Hunt from the Warren County voters, yet the industrious politician has made many friends nationally. Meanwhile, poor Warren County has lost one of its three physicians; Warren County farmland value near the dumpsite has decreased by 20 percent; and Warren County citizens are threatened with jail sentences if they try to stop the dumping. If the toxics start rolling into the county, who will decide whether or not other wastes should be stored in the area. A Three Mile Island could soon be situated between Kerr Lake, Warrenton and the township of Afton.

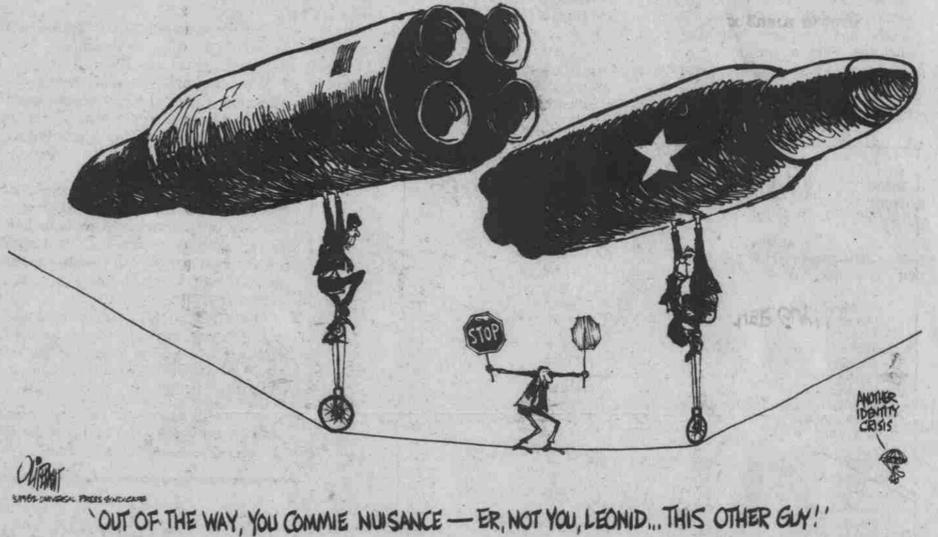
The damage has been done. Warren County has lost a physician, land prices are falling and our patience with the state's attitude is growing short. As for me, I'll monitor the grass in front of my house. If the eroded soil decides to hike upstream, I'll contact the proper authorities immediately. I'll even help remove the stuff to a proper resting place. Perhaps we can store it on the "back 40 acres" along with our self-oriented and unconcerned politicians in Raleigh.

J. Tasker Fleming, Jr.
Lewis Dorn

Pompous photographer

To the editor:

We would like to complain about the general attitude of *The Daily Tar Heel* staff and specifically about the photographer who covered Col. Stephen



Love's lecture on the Falkland Crisis in Hamilton Hall on Monday night. We are outraged to observe that this newspaper places more importance on getting a good picture of a speaker, over the consideration of the 40 or so persons who came to hear him.

In the first five minutes of Col. Love's talk, your photographer took at least ten photographs with electronic flash. The flash, however, was directed into the faces of those sitting on the right side of the photographer. Unable to concentrate on the speaker, one person asked him to redirect his flash. Adding a different unit to his camera, the photographer fired another series of shots at Col. Love. Then a person from across the aisle motioned the photographer to stop distracting the audience altogether; the photographer silently mouthed back, "Who are you?"

When we brought this incident to the attention of your photography editor, he replied that the newspaper's coverage takes precedence over those addressing or attending a lecture. Such a pompous attitude testifies that the *DTH* considers itself more important than anybody else at a lecture — than the audience or the speaker.

Who is serving whom?

We understand that this *DTH* staffer was only doing his job, had homework to do and deadlines to meet and was not being paid. Yet, flagrant disregard for others cannot be excused. Our hope is that in the future, *DTH* photographers and reporters will consider not only the paper's needs, but also the rights of their fellow students to enjoy a lecture. After all, students' fees pay for the lecture and partially pay for the newspaper.

Anything goes

To the editor:

Jean Hayes' predictions about the end of the world and her commandments about my personal salvation, "Something stirring" (*DTH*, Sept. 14) suggest that the back page is now pretty much an open forum for any kind of sentiment anybody feels like making. Fine.

I have something of my own I would like to advertise here and now. Ever since I drove around it for the first time, I have always wanted to live on Tenney Circle. Furthermore, I think that any students who have their priorities straight ought to want to live there, too.

I also like chocolate ice cream the best.

Gary McConnell
Chapel Hill

Sex guard needed

To the editor:

I would like to agree with Mark Allen in his article, "Crossing Guard Necessary" (*DTH*, Sept. 9), and suggest we go even further. Now that we enforce "no jaywalking" laws, let's put cameras in the apartments and dorms and enforce legal restrictions on premarital sex. Think of all the accidental pregnancies that could be avoided. We all want to be responsible, law-abiding citizens. Don't we?

Gilbert Emanuel
Law School

Nuclear awareness imperative

By JAMES R. LEUTZE

First, let me say that I am pleased that my comments on the issue of a nuclear first strike were originally reported, "Dr. Leutze discusses nuclear war" (*DTH*, Sept. 1), that they stirred someone into writing a response "U.S. first-strike prospect ignored" (*DTH*, Sept. 13) and that I now have an opportunity to respond to that letter. It is my firm conviction that it is not only possible, but absolutely essential, that the public master the basic elements of these subjects and become participants in the debate about U.S. national security policy.

With that idea in view, I addressed the Di Phi Society on the issue of First Strike. My purpose was to inform the group what First Strike meant and to explain some of the nuances that now concern some specialists. I did not portray the Russians in an unflattering light ("baby-eaters"), although I did point out that they had developed more accurate warheads that can now, or will very soon be able to, threaten our heaviest and most accurate weapons —

our land based systems. The concern of those who worry about this situation, and I don't very much, is that with our land based systems go our ability to knock out the Russian land based systems or other hardened targets. This leaves our president with the option of deciding to fire at Russian cities, thereby inviting attack on our cities, or of deciding to call a halt to the madness — since the Russians will always have

ponderables that it is highly unlikely that either side would be tempted to take the risks. Unfortunately, as a historian I am reminded that with alarming regularity men in the past have decided to do things in the name of security that I would have judged to be "highly unlikely." Hence, I think this is a subject we must, regrettably, become familiar with and possibly take some action about. That action may be

theoretical vulnerability might make it seem desirable for them to launch upon receiving a real or perceived warning that the U.S. was about to launch; 2) The point is raised that the Soviets have declared a no first use policy and we haven't. True, but in my view such a declaration, while fine for public relations purposes, isn't worth the paper it's written on; 3) Would I trade the U.S. arsenal for the Soviet arsenal? No, but that really is not the point. I'm not interested in having First Strike capability. I want a truly survivable deterrent.

Finally, I am glad that Richard Oldrieve is interested, informed and concerned enough to write the *DTH* about this issue; I wish that more people were. War is too important to be left to the generals or to the politicians; in a democracy it is the heavy responsibility of the citizens to become informed and to influence national policy.

James R. Leutze is chairman of the curriculum in Peace, War and Defense and a Bowman and Gordon Gray professor in the department of history.

... once either side gains the ability to knock out the other's counter-missile missiles, they will be tempted to do so ... It is not first strike that one worries about so much as last strike.

the last shot — and negotiating from a position of weakness. The point being that once either side gains the ability to knock out the others' counter-missile missiles, they will be tempted to do so because they will then have the option of firing first and the luxury of firing last. Hence, it is not first strike that one worries about so much as last strike.

Now, I think starting a nuclear war is so surrounded with technological, political, psychological and moral im-

support for developing an MX system, agitation for SALT II and START I, signing a petition for a nuclear freeze, or all of the above.

As to several of the specific points raised in the letter: 1) If I were the Russians, I would worry about the possibility of a U.S. First Strike. Indeed, I wish the Russians did not have such a large proportion of their missiles based on land where they are theoretically vulnerable. This

THE Daily Crossword

by C.F. Murray

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ROBE AHEAD ABOU
ILEX ERNIE CORS
PELT YEDALTONS
STALOOD SINDOKER
EDIRALIA SON
PASTIA ERG SEKETS
ANIS TROUPE ART
PGA BEMUSED OLD
AIR EDESSA ATEN
WORST DIE CRUDE
AAR SITATES
ALASKIAN PROJEN
LEISBAINERS LAITH
ANTIE ABOLIE ACRE
RAID REAHS SKEW

