

e d i t o r i a l

Are we champions of peace?

Former President Jimmy Carter is gone now and all that remains are the memories. In a few hours on campus, Carter was able to teach several people in various ways.

When he emerged from his car, not a limousine, surrounded by an entourage of Secret Service men, he quickly turned, threw up his hand, flashed the infamous Carter grin and proceeded to shake the hands of those standing nearest to him. His friendliness showed us all that he was human.

At the press conference, we learned of Carter's intelligence as he gracefully responded to the questions of local journalists and Meredith students. Carter also shocked us all with some of his responses.

The main event of the day was Carter's speech titled, "America: A Champion of Peace?" After hearing the lecture, I began to formulate my own opinion of the topic.

Carter said that we as a nation must choose what is morally and ethically right and reach for the highest goal a nation could ever set for itself: justice. To me, those are powerful words. Even though I

believe that the United States should do what is right in all its dealings, I also believe that you can't run the United States as you would Sunday school.

I believe that when our nation encounters strife with another nation, we should try to negotiate with its leaders. Then maybe a compromise could be worked out.

Carter said that America should not use its great power to cause suffering in other nations.

I agree with that statement wholeheartedly, but if a country such as Libya persists to shoot our planes out of the sky and harm the citizens of a nation, then I am in favor of defensive action.

I agree with Carter when he says that America should be a champion of peace for other nations, but I think we have to create peace within our own borders before we can spread it abroad.

Our citizens cannot rest if we let a small country such as Libya "push us around." What kind of message does that send out to a super power such as the Soviet Union?

Foreign policy is not the only place where there is a lack of peace in the United States.

Our youth are being tempted everyday. Cocaine, crack, and other drugs are being offered to them in the streets and on the school grounds. Children are giving birth and there are missing children worldwide.

In addition to that, people are starving in every city in the United States, unemployment is on the rise and farmer's need money to save their farms. Where is the peace?

We campaign for other countries' needs. We send huge amounts of money to Nicaragua to help the Contras. Our musicians band together to sing for the needy in Africa. What about America's needs?

I am not against aid to other countries, but I would like for us to get our nation in order before we try to fix up someone else's.

I think the only way for us to be a true champion of peace is to first create peace within our borders. Then, we can shine like a beacon for other nations.

Vanessa Goodman
Editor



UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO THE TERM PAPER

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The opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Herald welcomes criticism and will respond promptly to any submitted in writing and signed by the writer.

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1. We require all articles/letters to be in the Herald drop box located in J12 Hallman by noon on Thursdays.

2. We require all articles/letters to be signed by the writer and to include his/her title, if representing an organization. This should be in the upper right hand corner of the first page.

3. We require all articles/letters to be neatly written or typed and double-spaced on a 50 space line.

4. We require all writers to count the number of words in the article/letter and place it on the first page.

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