

Israel and Palestine Cont'd

conception about the mosques there being holy to the Islamic faith.

Smith:

Regardless of the historical precedents, the Dome of the Rock is now precious to Moslems. As such, it should be respected by all those dealing with this situation. I would not see a problem sharing the Dome with the Israelis, but Palestinians have no motivation to do so, when they are constantly being harassed by Israelis. The Israeli government insists on total control of the Dome so that they may rebuild their Temple on that spot. This is yet another example of the government's refusal to cooperate.

Internal Displacement of Palestinians

Kulkarni:

It is unfortunate to note that many Palestinians are internally displaced from their homes. However, we need to probe the causes of this to evaluate the results. The displacement of these Palestinian refugees stems from unrest in the area - caused by their fellow Palestinians. Thus, while their condition is regrettable, the displacement of Palestinians from their homes is not a problem for the State of Israel. Rather, it is a problem caused by Palestinians themselves and one for the PLO to solve.

Smith:

The displacement of the

Palestinian refugees is due to the fact that the Israeli military has an unrestrained license to do with the Palestinians what it pleases, causing many unfortunate situations like rape, robbery, and death. How would



<http://www.thesafetyvalve.com/archives/images/2002/palestine.jpg>

you like it if suddenly the Mexican military was in control of your town, and they could do whatever they wanted? The military has moved many of these Palestinians to make way for yet more Jewish settlers. This is the root cause of the internal displacement of the Palestinians, and it is also the cause of much of the anger from both sides. The Palestinians have no rights, no liberties, and are considered only a bother to "Jewish progress."

Statehood for Palestine

Kulkarni:

For a while now, the Israeli government has taken responsibility in protecting the Palestinian people. As seen by the failure of their leadership to take action against those Palestinian terrorists who threaten peace and by the

instability of the Palestinian leadership, the Palestinians are incapable of governing themselves in a way that would protect the Palestinian people. Suicide bombers who are encouraged by the PLO's Intifada tear apart Palestinian society and wreak havoc upon the peace-loving State of Israel. While the Palestinians of course have the right of self-determination, they are not ready for it. Statehood for Palestine would result in chaos in the region because the Palestinian officials cannot even control their would-be citizens who inflict death and suffering on the Israelis by acts of terrorism. Israeli control of the areas would bring stability to the area and prepare it for eventual statehood.

Smith:

The PLO has worked to further peace in Palestine through non-violent manners, which is more than anyone can say for the Israeli government. The governmental policy is such that they would openly say that they desire death for Arafat. Regardless of his stances, would any sane individual think that making a martyr for a cause is the best way to kill that cause? The reason that the Palestinians need their own state in the first place is that Israel has oppressed them, and that Israel has proven that it cannot govern over the Palestinians effectively. Most of the Palestinians simply want to live in peace and be allowed the rights of Israelis; this is not possible under the Israeli regime. Since Israel was originally created to rectify past wrongs of the UN, it seems only logical that the UN attempt to mediate a process through which Palestine is given statehood.

Terrorism

Kulkarni:

Simply put, the Palestinian people are being held back by a radical minority who consider themselves freedom fighters and wage war on humanity and human rights in order to achieve their aims. They naively think that their goals can be achieved by strapping C4 to themselves and igniting. How wrong they are! Israel respects the rights of Palestinians, but must take certain steps to protect the Palestinians and its own nationals. The Palestinian terrorists are the source of the problems in the region. The attempted ceasefires have been broken by Hamas suicide bombings, not by Israel. Israeli military retaliation is only to put an end to terrorism by striking at the leaders of the rebels who threaten the peaceful coexistence of the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Smith:

The suicide bombers do not represent the will of the majority in Palestine. They are radical, in that their methods are extreme. This being said, they are fighting for a just cause. The Israeli military commits just as many atrocious acts against Palestinian civilians that go unreported by western media. While I in no way condone their methods, I find it reasonable that they would want to fight back. But beyond the fringe groups, we find many millions of Palestinians that are working for their rights in a peaceful, political manner. We must remember that this land that is now Israel was taken from the Arabs in 1948. It was not their choice to be a part of Israel. If Israel would begin to listen to political leaders (read: Arafat and his various Prime Ministers), then the bombings and terrorism will die down. The Palestinians do not hate Israel, they just do not want to

be a part of it.

Israeli Military

Kulkarni:

Like any sovereign country, Israel has in its highest interests the protection of its national security and sovereignty. When armed terrorists threaten peace in Israel, Israel reserves the right to take actions it may deem appropriate to protect national security. Countless Israeli lives, both civilian and military, are lost in the struggle with the Palestinians. The Israeli military sometimes has to take actions to protect the lives of the Israeli people. Occupation of Palestinian towns is resented by Palestinians; however, it is misunderstood. The Israeli army is acting in the best interests of both the Israeli and Palestinian people by taking steps to prevent suicide attacks and by destroying terrorist infrastructure that sheds Israeli blood and taints the reputation of the Palestinians.

Smith:

Fear, intimidation, killings, rape, robbery.... These are all documented cases of what the Israeli military (which the United States funds) has done to the Palestinian people. The Israeli military is the biggest terrorist organization in the world. They use the same tactics that Osama bin Laden uses to intimidate the west. They bomb civilians, kill innocents, and cause fear in the hearts of their victims, for the sole purpose of keeping them "in line." The Israeli military has, since the Six Day War, been the aggressor in all of its conflicts, including the internal one with the Palestinians. Every country has the right to protect itself, but not to engage civilians of its own nation.

Rugby Update

DEREK PAYLOR

If you can look at your arm and see constellations in the formation of your bruises, you must be a member of NCSSM's Rugby Team. Some might remember this awesome extra-curricular receiving a feature in an earlier addition. Since then, the team's membership has expanded and the players' ferocity has increased.

"We have to sign a waiver to play a contact sport, and some parents had problems with that," details Shea Wines, a senior and a flanker for NCSSM's Rugby Team. The game is not for the faint and heart, being the only contact

sport at NCSSM.

Two students and seniors representing Duke's Rugby Club, Cyprien Benoit and Will Plaxico, donate their time every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon as coaches to help whip these guys into shape by using their concrete guidance as veteran players.

With only a few weeks before the season begins, the Rugby team headed up to a training clinic in Charlotte in order to develop better techniques and train for individual positions.

"We met a lot of people from around the state; it was fun," says Wines, with a smile. "I recommend this sport to

anyone who doesn't mind getting tackled."

Senior Larry Whysall,



Rugby Team

captain and 2nd row rugger, is

pleased about the progress attained since the last feature.

"Things have been excellent.

Our season starts in mid-February, and our first game is scheduled for February 21." The game is going to be a home game or at least somewhere here in the Durham area, so students can get a chance to see what the team can really do, Whysall says.

Competing with six other teams in the league, including East Chapel Hill High, South Charlotte, and the Pineville Matthews Hogs, the season will continue until the end of this school year. Such events the

team sees itself involved in include an all-state rugby invitation festival, a try for southern high school championship qualifier, and possibly the state championship tournament. "We will also possibly schedule games with teams outside of our league as well," Larry believes.

Those wanting to learn more about the Rugby Team can check out the website <http://neverland.ncssm.edu/rugby>, where pictures and a schedule can be located, along with instructions on how to play this challenging sport. The sponsor, Dr. David Frauenfelder, is also available with more information.