

# Middle East crisis

## Readers express opinions on Israel-Lebanon situation

Editor:

I am truly disappointed with Marc Roger's recent attempt at arguing his position on the Middle East crisis. After promising us a lucid explanation of the issue free of verbal histrionics and passions, an explanation he says, with verifiable proof that speaks to the logic and reason in man, he launches into a diatribe of myths, half-truths and passionate descriptions of the now scratched record of Jewish tragedies throughout history.

In reply to Mr. Roger's facts/myths, I can only promise that I will try not to go too deep into what he candidly refers to as "Arabic verbal histrionics," obviously a new code word for any argument of the Arab position.

**Myth 1** — Israel knew of a planned Arab attack on October 6, 1973, and was only prevented from attacking first by American pressure. In fact, Israel was not even prepared for the attack when it came or knew of its extent until only a few hours before it began. True, ever since the Israelis occupied Arab lands in the summer of 1967, they knew the Arabs would attack to regain their lands, but the Israelis never knew when the attack would come. Check Kissinger's memoirs for more detail.

**Myth 2** — Former Egyptian president Sadat offered his hand in peace purely as a matter of economic and political neces-

sity. First of all, that is a rather unverifiable assumption, considering the fact that only Sadat knew what was going on in his own heart and mind when he decided to end the war with Israel. Second-

### Reader's Forum

ly, numerous statesmen including all the leaders of Western Europe and America whom Sadat met, were convinced of the sincerity of his intentions and the deep belief he had in his mission. In my view, Sadat's major mistake was compromising too fast and putting too much trust in the Israelis much-ballyhooed cries for peace.

**Myth 3** — The Arab's avowed aim is to push Israel into the sea. No Arab leader alive today ever called for expelling Jews from Palestine and sending them back to their host countries. In fact, the Palestinians through the PLO have reiterated again and again that they do not seek to expell Zionist-Jews from Palestine but would rather live with them in a single democratic state where all are equal before the law. True, past Arab demagogues most notably Nasser, once threatened in rhetorical speeches to push the Israelis into the sea, but even then, it

was interpreted as destroying Israel's military power but never its people.

**Fact 1** — The Jews have been the recipients of some of the worst forms of oppression, verbal palaver and punishment throughout most of their history in the West. Yes, on this point you are half right. Yet, Zionists seem to forget that the Armenians were subjected to genocidal policies under the Ottomans and the Gypsies, of whom 3 million were killed during World War II subjected to Hitler's genocidal policies. Furthermore, let us not forget that more Protestants and even Moslems died as a result of the Inquisition than Jews in Spain and elsewhere. Nevertheless, it is typical of the myopic hypocrisy of Zionists which continually evokes Jewish tragedies of the past while perpetuating the Palestinian Arab tragedy today.

**Myth 4** — The Arabs are the cause of the world-wide oil crisis. This is probably the most vicious and oft repeated form of slander aimed at the Arabs. First, because the escalation of oil prices was the inevitable result of demand outstripping supply in a free-market world economy. Secondly, if it wasn't for the thankless efforts of Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, oil prices today would be two or three times what they are. In fact, the recent world oil glut was the direct result of Saudi Arabian overproduction. It was a concerted effort by the Arab world's chief financial suppor-

ter of the PLO to prevent an oil price rise as a result of the Iranian-Iraqi oil cutoff.

Finally, as for taking care of the refugees, let us not forget that it was the Israelis who expelled the Palestinians from their homes, and it is the Israelis who to this day refuse to allow the Palestinians to return and live free and in peace in their homeland. Furthermore, let me remind you that most of the aid which reaches the PLO from the Arab countries is eventually spent on the Palestinian refugees in the form of hospitals and schools run by the PLO.

Please don't disappoint us again Mr. Rogers — after all, coating your language with scholarly sounding words doesn't detract from the fact that it is the same old Israeli propaganda that we have been hearing for years, and which inevitably ends with acquitting Israel of any responsibility for the Palestinian refugees.

Nabil Al-Khowaiter

### Oppressors-terrorists

**Editor:**  
Terrorism is when Israeli oppressors label Palestinian oppressed as terrorists.

S.M.M. Mohsin  
401 Stasney

### Lebanese puppets

Editor:

The Lebanese rightist phantoms who represent only themselves, are puppets of Israel and will never cease in diverting Lebanon's policies in favor of Israel because Lebanon has always and always will be a major defender and supporter of the Palestinian cause.

Salah Ed  
401 Stasney

### Israel-Nazi comparison

Editor:

McHugh and Klass's comparison of Israeli military action in Lebanon to Nazi genocide (June 15 letter) is absurd and irresponsible. I'll bet you wouldn't take it kindly if someone were firing rockets into their backyard on Sunday afternoon in the middle of a

Arnold Cusum  
Assistant profes

# Who needs college anyway?

by Art Buchwald

"Hey, Dad, guess what? I've been accepted by Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell and Stanford."

"That's just wonderful, son. But are you really sure you want to go to college?"

"Gosh, Dad, you always said the one thing everyone needed in life was a college education."

"I was making conversation. I know a lot of people who are big wheels in their fields who never had a university diploma. You know my friend Sam Steg in Boston? He not only never went to college, he never even saw an Ivy League football game. He is one of the most successful men I know."

"And Eddie Aaronson of Rockville, Md., made a decision that he could educate himself much better than any school could do it for him. The man can buy and sell anybody who went to the Wharton School of Business."

"But you went to college."

"If I knew then what I know now, I would never have done it. I wasted four of the best years of my life studying for exams. I could have been driving a taxi then, instead of throwing my parents' money away on books and courses and dates. But just because I made a mistake is no reason you have to make the same one."

"Gee, Dad, you never told me how unhappy you were at Dartmouth."

"I didn't want you to know, because I was afraid you would think less of me. All fathers have skeletons in their closets that they try to keep from their children. Now that you're a man I feel I can level with you. The only reason I went to college was to stay out of the Army."

"I thought you would be pleased that I was accepted by five of the best schools in the country."

"I am, son. But just because they accepted you is no reason you have to go to any one of them. You've got a brilliant mind, and I hate to see them load it down with a lot of intellectual nonsense that could mess you up for the rest of your life. Besides, every college that has accepted you is part of the elitist establishment. By the time you graduate, you'll think that you are better than anybody else. Worse still, everybody else will think the same thing. Once you get a degree from a top-flight school, you'll be a marked man for the rest of your days."

"Mom wants me to go to a good college."

"All mothers want their sons to go to a good college. But that doesn't mean it's right. They think because you've been

accepted in some fancy school it reflects favorably on them. It's not important what Mom wants for you. It's what you want for yourself."

"I want to go to a good school."

"You say that now because you've never been to one. You're young and idealistic and you believe that all you need to get ahead is an education. But as you grow older you'll discover it isn't the college but the man that matters. I can introduce you to graduates of every university you have been accepted at, who will tell you they would have been happier being male disco dancers."

"What do you want me to do, Dad?"

"It's your decision, son. I don't want to influence you one way or the other. But if I were your age, I'd buy a backpack and hitchhike across the country. You'll learn a lot more than you will in some Ivy League institution."

"Dad, can I ask you a question?"

"Yes, son."

"Are we broke?"

"We're not broke. But we will be if you go to one of those five schools."

"Okay, then I'll go to the University of Maryland. It always was my first choice."

"Thanks, son. You just saved the old plantation."

## Slouch By Jim Earle

WELCOME  
TO  
TEXAS A&M  
AMERICAN SOCIETY  
FOR  
ENGINEERING  
EDUCATION



# Status symbols and the status quo

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Status, like beauty, smog, pollen and cinders, is in the eye of the beholder.

Attributes that might incite hero worship at, say, a truck stop wouldn't necessarily impress the crowd at, say, a polo game. And vice versa.

I mention this by way of cautioning readers of Penthouse, whose July issue features a list of Washington status symbols. Penthouse sometimes confuses status symbols with mere perquisites, or what are known in labor-management quarters as fringe benefits. Here is a representative sampling:

- Having your phone bugged.
- Use of the presidential box at the Kennedy Center.
- Catching the president's cold.
- Exotic trees in your office, courtesy of the National Arboretum.
- Having a baby animal at the National Zoo named for you.

I can see how these goodies might serve as prestige-enhancers in some government circles. But let no Penthouse reader be misled into assuming they would be recognized as status symbols throughout the capital.

For status-seeking purposes, the federal establishment may be loosely divided into four segments: Civil Servants, Policy Makers, Heavy Hitters and Eggheads.

Civil Servants are the bureaucrats who actually do the work.

Policy Makers, including lobbyists, consultants, whistleblowers and other fringe groups, spend all their time trying to get a point across.

Heavy Hitters are congressional committee chairmen and department heads. Eggheads are the token intellectuals who think things through.

Their status symbols are not necessarily interchangeable. This point is illustrated by lunch.

Civil Servants, as a class, eat lunch at government cafeterias; Policy Makers have three-martini lunches in posh restaurants; Heavy Hitters have private dining rooms adjacent to their offices; Eggheads bring their lunch from home in brown paper bags.

The "perks" desired by parts of the federal establishment leave other parts entirely covetous, as we shall see in applying a couple of Penthouse's status symbols to the four segments isolated above.

A Policy Maker who wangled seats on the presidential box at the Kennedy Center would gain status only among other Policy Makers, plus a few Civil Servants who stood in line to buy tickets.

Heavy Hitters would not be interested in watching a performance from the presidential box unless the president was present.

And Eggheads would prefer to drink in culture from a blanket spread on the lawn at Wolf Trap Farm.

As for "Having your phone bugged," only Civil Servants could derive status from that.

Policy Makers would be the ones who ordered the bugging. Heavy Hitters would have security decoding devices that scrambled their telephone conversations. And Eggheads would use the phone at the end of the corridor.

