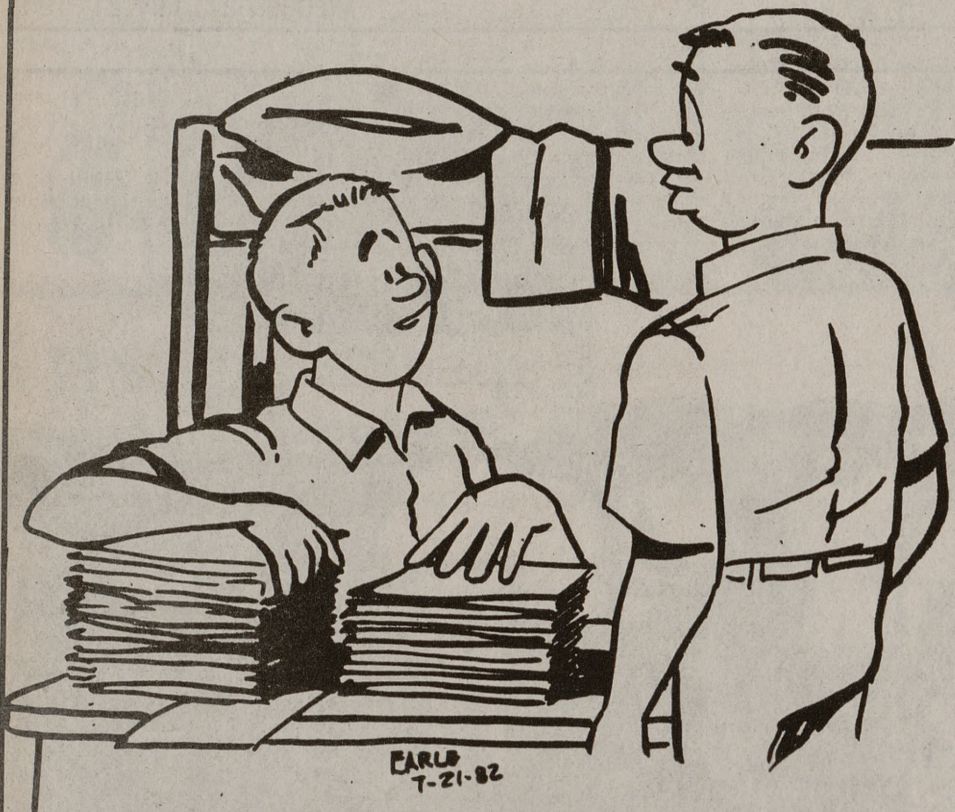


Slouch By Jim Earle



"I took all these notes in this course last semester; I studied them; condensed them to a single volume; reduced the volume to a report; summarized the report in a single page; compressed the page to a paragraph; then to a single sentence and finally to a single word; and then ... I forgot the word."

Psychological baggage

by Art Buchwald

"This is ridiculous," said Tabash, as he read The New York Times on the beach. "It says here that the toughest time for couples is when they go on vacation. The reason seems to be that the couple is together for an uninterrupted block of time. The husband and wife have fantasies of what it will be like to be together, and many times these fantasies don't come true, so they get angry and pick fights with each other over little things. One doctor in the article calls it 'psychological baggage.'"

Fenton laughed. "Barbara and I don't feel that way."

Fenton's wife sat up angrily and said, "My name isn't Barbara. It's Bernice."

"Barbara — Bernice, what's the big deal?" Fenton asked.

"After 15 years of marriage, you could get my name right."

"Now you're getting picky," Fenton said. "Barbara is my secretary, and every once in a while I get them mixed up," he explained to the rest of us.

"It's an honest mistake," I agreed. "A guy can't remember his wife's name ALL the time. That's why I always call mine 'Honey.'"

"What else does the article say?" Fenton wanted to know.

Tabash referred to his paper. "People who take vacations are full of guilt. They feel guilty about not working. They feel guilty about taking a vacation their parents can't afford. Guilt leads to disharmony in the couple and ultimately spoils their vacation."

"I don't feel guilty about not working," said Dobler. "I'm enjoying every moment of it."

"Then why are you on the phone to the office every day?" Astrid Dobler asked.

"Because I have to know what is going on," Dobler replied bitterly. "You can't have a good time if you have no idea what they're doing in the shop while you're away. My clients don't pay me to sit on the beach all day long. I notice you call the house-sitters every day."

"That's different. It's my house, and if they don't hear from me daily, they'll think I don't care what they do to the place," Astrid retorted.

Dobler turned to all of us. "I couldn't go on a vacation if I didn't check in with the office. One lousy call a day doesn't make you a workaholic."

"You've never known how to take a

vacation, because your parents took one," Astrid said.

"They never had the money to go on one," Dobler shouted.

"Right now they're stuck in an apartment in Brooklyn all summer. I guess heartburn every time I think about it."

Astrid said: "I'm not responsible because you're having a guilt trip on your parents."

"Keep reading, Tabash," I told her. "I think you're making our summer."

Tabash said, "The article says that a study at the University of Minnesota found more couples fought each other during the summer than any other time in the year."

"It figures," I said. "That's why they're stuck with each other's neuroses for the longest period of time."

"What neuroses?" my wife wanted to know.

"I'm not talking about us," I said. "I thought you were sleeping."

She threw a bluefish at me.

"What am I supposed to do without you?" I spluttered.

"Stuff it in your psychological baggage."

Iranians want peace in home country

Leo Tolstoy wrote in War and Peace that two factors determine the effectiveness of an army: its physical size and equally significant, its spirit. In the revolution of 1978-1979 and particularly during the ensuing war with Iraq, Iranians provided the world with historic examples of the potential force of the

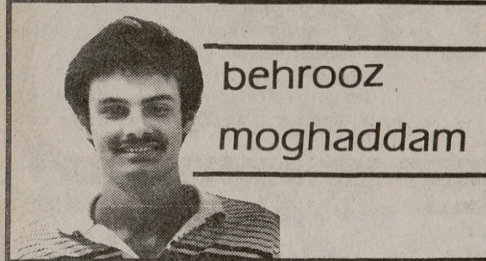
Consequently, Iranians will soon find themselves perplexed with the decision to push on. And confusion may well lead to indifference of anger, either of which will serve as the first ingredient in the recipe for losing a war.

The potential for losing yet thousands of more lives also weight against the new offensive. In what is termed the biggest land battle since World War II, 200,000 troops are presently locked in fierce combat.

Contrary to Tehran's expectations, I suspect the Iraqi people and army will fight for their authoritarian government for the same reason the Argentines gave overwhelming support to their military dictatorship — nationalism. The motherland comes before government. As a result therefore, Iranian casualties will probably reach unbearable levels, while in the meantime the possibility for losing the war itself looms overhead. Moreover, this turn of events would simultaneously extinguish Iran's present bargaining position, one which may still yield excellent gains at any negotiating table.

Finally, the new flare-up invites heightened United States and Soviet involvement, thus bringing with it all the dangers of escalation. Having accepted limited Russian assistance in the last twenty-two months of the war, Iran from necessity, risks even closer links with her northern neighbor. Moscow, for its part, following the Lebanese embarrassment, will undoubtedly press for more influence in Tehran. Hence the longer the war lasts, the tighter the bear-hug becomes.

In the final analysis, Iranians do not want this war. Rather, they want peace at home. This is in part best symbolized by the exodus of tens of thousands of highly skilled and educated Iranians from their country. The answer to this drain of Iranian energy must be found soon, lest Iran falls irreparably apart.



behrooz moghaddam

latter. And in those years, as the central figure, Ayatollah Khomeini played no little part; his nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism proved decisive in both instances.

Coincidentally with these successes, however, there has also evolved in the Iranian political structure an uneasy tendency away from pursuing the political and economic needs of the public. Instead, leaders have become dangerously pre-occupied with maintaining power and vying for favor with the Ayatollah. The latest Iranian incursion into Iraq is a case in point.

I agree with most in linking the invasion with the desire to focus public attention away from domestic problems. However, whether this end will be achieved or not is another question.

Iraqi territory is not Iranian soil. No matter the propaganda and rhetoric, Iranians will not support this new offensive to the extent they supported the expulsion of Iraqi troops from Iran. Pride and country are no longer threatened. Rather both have been defended heroically and in the process Iraq has been humiliated.



Reader clarifies bombing facts

Editor:

While I agree in the main with Terry Duran's expose on the word terrorism, there were finite points that needed clarification. His views, however, are lucidly clear as compared to those of Nabil Al-Khowaiter, who appears to be plagued by a kaleidoscopic myopicness that vitiates the facts but acts as a veneer for his seething, dogmatic hatred of the Jewish people and everything and one they stand for or are associated with. His latest faux pas was comparing the Irgun and Stern's brand of terrorism with that of the PLO's. A case in point is his allusion to the King David Hotel bombing that occurred in Jerusalem in 1946.

The King David Hotel at that time billeted both the British and civilian-military governments. On July 22, 1946, the Irgun set the bombs that led to the subsequent death and injury of more than 200 people, 15 of whom were Jewish civilians. Those are the overt facts: here are the covert facts (Chapter 15 in Menachem Begin's "The Revolt").

The prime consideration in planning the attack was the elimination, at all costs, of civilian casualties. In order to ensure this outcome then, the following three actions were taken, a priori to the bombing:

- 1) A small cracker bomb, noisy but harmless, was let off to keep passersby away from the building.
- 2) Three offices received a telephoned warning: the King David Hotel management, the Palestine Post and the French Consulate-General. These admonitions were later verified by independent sources.
- 3) The attack was delivered at an hour when there were no customers in the hotel's Cafe for lunch.

In addition, the chapter proffers incisive ponderings between the troika of the Palmach, the Haganah and the Irgun and Stern outfits, highlighting in the process their concern for the non-combatants and the polemics that went on to insure just such an outcome.

This form of "terrorism" differs in both a qualitative and quantitative vein from that of the PLO as witnessed by

iously forth. The reprehensiveness with which the PLO carries out its dogma is also disdained by the rest of the Arab world, which, as Newsweek has so prominently stated, left the PLO to fight battle alone in Lebanon.

I do not want to engage in a quibbling battle with Mr. Khowaiter, but leaves me little choice. His vendetta towards Israel has reached leviathan proportions and must be defused before pyrotechnics of a serious nature result. As I am sure he will instantly retort, I missive, let me conclude thusly:

I am willing to forego our tete-a-tete that has been going on in The Battalion's editorial section for some time now, so to enable other Texas A&M students their allotted space and opinions. If I choose to do otherwise, however, I will rebut every one of your odious letters until we part ways. Napoleon had his Waterloo and now you have yours.

Marc Roge
Graduate student
Educational Psychology

Reader's Forum

their indiscriminate Ma'alot killings of Israeli school children and their Black September hijackings of airplanes. I therefore doubt that the PLO spends its time in vehement debates concerning the fate of its victims before striking mili-

the small society

by Brickman



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