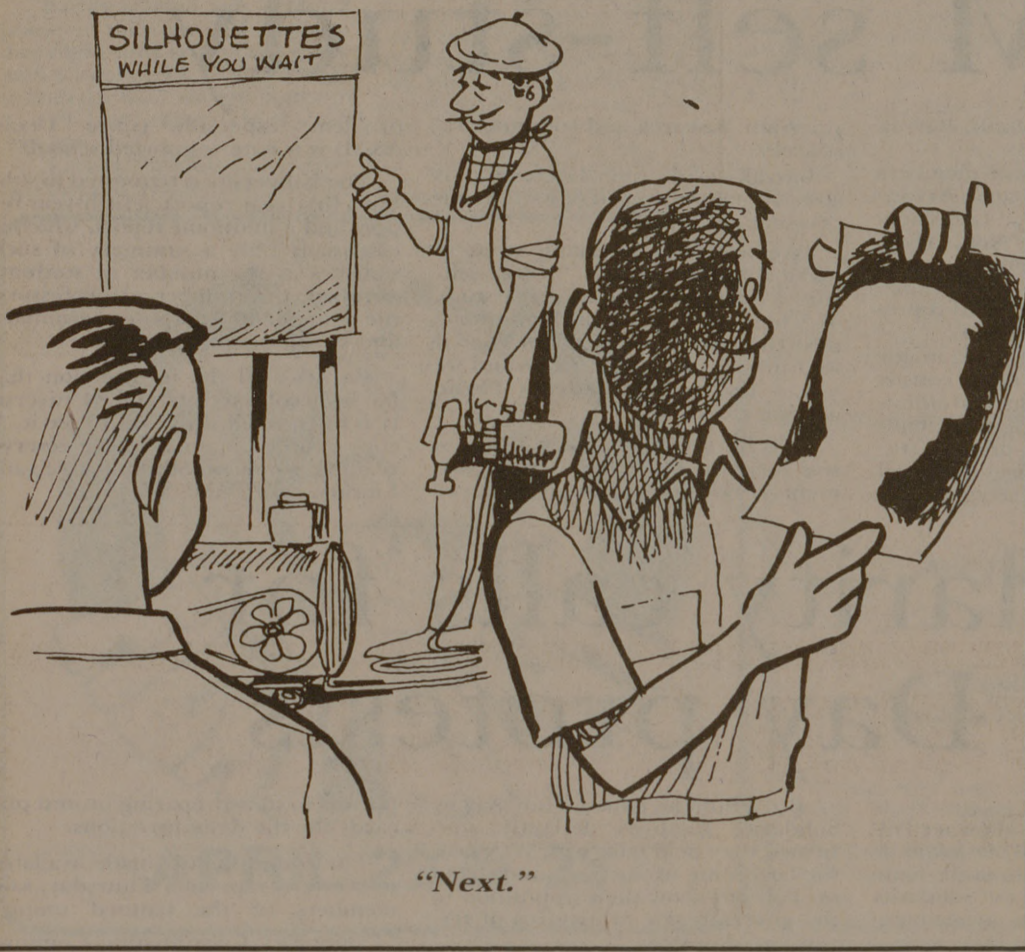


opinion

Slouch By Jim Earle



Search for peace in modern Israel

Editor's note: This is the last of a four-part analysis written by members of the Israel Club in conjunction with Israel Awareness Week.

by Y. Weitsman

For almost 2000 years in the diaspora, Jewish hopes for a renewed Israel were derived from religious faith and biblical prophecies. These hopes received a realistic form in the Zionist movement during the 19th century. Spurred on and encouraged by the ideas of the American and French Revolutions, and by the European "Spring of Nations," the Zionist movement spread through the Jewish ghettos as a direct counterpart of the liberation movements of Italy, Poland, Germany and Hungary. Unlike its sister movements, Zionism faced the apparently insurmountable obstacles of liberating a people that were scattered, lacking common territory and language.

The land of Israel, which most Jews saw only in their dreams, was controlled by a decaying and corrupt Turkish Empire. The country had long ceased being the proverbial "land of milk and honey." Centuries of neglect bared it of its natural forest and turned its fertile valleys into malaria infested swamps. Its population, which dwindled to a small fraction of its ancient size, retreated to the now barren mountains and lived at subsistence level.

Jewish settlement was directed to the swampy valleys, which took a heavy toll of death among the early pioneers and their

families. The tomb stones in the valleys of Sharon, Hefer, Hula and Jezreel tell to this day the story of dedication and sacrifice of settler families, men, women and children. This dedication, combined with the implement of modern science and technology, is the most important single cause for Israel's emergence.

On its 35th anniversary, Israel can point to many important achievements. Exiles were gathered from over one hundred countries around the globe and shaped into a coherent society, the Hebrew language was revived and turned to a daily and cultural tongue (several years ago, the Hebrew author, S.I. Agnon, received the Nobel prize in literature), the land was reclaimed and made fertile once more, and a political system of Western Democracy was entrenched into all levels of government. All these accomplishments give good cause for satisfaction and pride to Israel and its supporters.

There remains, however, one crucial item of unfinished business on Israel's agenda. Their country has yet to achieve peace and acceptance by its Arab neighbors. It is ironic that a people whose yearning for peace is unsurpassed by any other nation, has not known peace since its birth 35 years ago. This accomplishment, peace — in the spirit of good will and compromise — remains Israel's most important task for the future.

Yechiel Weitsman is a civil engineering professor at Texas A&M.

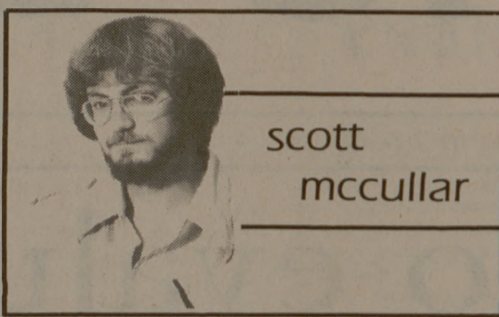
Give us all a sign, Lord

He has finished his performance. He leaves the stage and now tries to make his way through the deluge of his fans. You are there, in the midst of them, waiting for him with your little autograph book. For some reason, he stops in front of you, smiles, and agrees to sign his name in it for you. Then he is gone.

The autograph of a celebrity is a strange item. It is little more than physical evidence of a celebrity's encounter with one of his fans. It is usually the extent of a celebrity's dealings with most of his fans too, yet it seems to carry much more significance than that.

The autograph is actually many things. For the fan an autograph is a goal, a possession, a gift and almost a form of proof that some tie exists between the celebrity and himself. It can lead to a feeling of ownership that extends almost beyond the owning of the signature to include friendship. Something seems to separate the fan with the autograph from those without. The book or record autographed by its creator has a higher resale value than those that lack it.

Celebrities communicate their messages to their audience through the mass media. Whether through a performance, a recording or a piece of writing, it is a sad but true fact that a celebrity's relationship with his audience is on a one-to-one basis



scott mccullar

only for the audience. He cannot know them the way they know him. However, the fans generally do not see this perspective, and when meeting a fan the celebrity is forever forced to respond to statements like "I just wanted to tell you how much I liked your book," or "I have all of your albums?" For the fan it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; for the celebrity simply another fan with the same things to say.

John Denver considers a fan's desire to "wring" an autograph out of him to be terribly selfish. He believes that an autograph has nothing to do with a performer's relationship with his audience, that it is simply the fan's desire to own a piece of him. For him, autographs have nothing to do with him or his music.

Yet in a way the fan is one terms with his favorite celebrity's familiarity with the star's many hours a fan spends waiting or reading his idol's tening or a very special, private ship. It's amazing, though, fans are content with an autograph exchanged words and possibly shake from their favorite star, ing so many of his thoughts as they inevitably must come to are deserving of more from him. Still, the word "celebrity" in age person is equated almost "legend." It is interesting how risk the disappointment of their idol is only human, just chance of reinforcing their mas as a legend in some new way. We know the celebrities, them to know us, a hopeless celebrity reaches out as an with his work and presents viduals in a group — Perhaps that's why we refer "stars." They are just as eas those lights in the night sky.



Letters: Slave sale called inoffensive

Editor:

This letter is in response to Kevin Johnson's letter of April 13, which criticized Crocker Hall's "Brooster Sale" as being similar to slavery auctions. I am sorry that Mr. Johnson is offended by this event, but I do not quite understand why he objects.

First of all, the Crocker Cocks who are sold in this auction are volunteering their services, not being forced to do anything against their will. Also, those auctioned off are giving a few hours of their services, not a lifetime. And finally, much of the proceeds from this sale are going to charity.

Mr. Johnson, slavery is a part of this country's past and there it will stay, unless people continually dig it back up by finding offense where there is none. And finally Mr. Johnson, let me remind you the men auctioned off are doing it at their own will, so if you really want to get picky, it's not slavery — it's prostitution.

Mark St. Mary
Secretary, Crocker Hall

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 27 other signatures.

A person donates for a good cause and not for his name to be advertised. A good place to start in order to find out how to improve your program notes, would be to find one that you used to distribute during your 1977-79 season.

It would be also highly appreciated if you could find a way to inform us well in advance about the pieces of music to be performed by the visiting performers.

Nevertheless, I would like to thank you for a good season and I wish you the best for your future seasons.

Petro Yuanidis
Graduate Student

Concert thanks

Editor:

I would like to salute the MSC Basement Committee for their efforts in arranging the Lotions Concert which was held last Friday evening at The Grove. The featured entertainment was an excellent social and cultural interlude with the realm of Reggae music.

I was thrilled to find that there was no admission charge to this session of Reggae (a medium which finds its roots in the pursuit of non-pecuniary satisfaction.) I'm sure the other 800 in attendance join in my anticipation of more first rate activities in the future.

J.D. Currie, '85

Human rights abuses

Editor:

International Students Week was an enriching event. However, while we were enjoying an introduction to different cul-

tures, people in many of the represented are suffering human abuses. Men and women are being because of their political beliefs, origin, sex, nationality, race or beliefs. These people are not none has ever used or advocated of violence. They are called upon conscience. The fact these people prison is an affront to humanity do care; people like the Amnesty International. It is good events like International Student but we must not let them forget these abuses that occur.

TAMU Amnesty International

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by six other signatures.

Crestview apprec

Editor:

As a resident of Crestview Community, I would like to thank young women of Moshier Hall friends who put on the Senior Celebration Day April 10 at Crestview when I say we all had time and made new friends. The dents went far beyond the call name a few things; their return would have done justice to a function, especially the delicious and spreads retirement citizens think about. We enjoyed the games, and learned all the latest (To our shock and surprise we knew the latest steps.) It was a meat other senior citizens Crestview.

Many thanks to the young men who still care about senior citizens.

Sue Sanders Loew

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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