

Palestinians should abandon PLO

Terrorist tactics invalidate organization, destroy chance for lasting peace

I have always felt fortunate to have been born to parents who cared so much for me...

JOSEF ELCHANAN Columnist



When the date for my bar-mitzvah approached, my parents decided that we would all travel to Israel...

In this foreign land I met many relatives from my father's side of the family...

Two subjects dominated my experiences in the country, a fear that I was unprepared for my bar-mitzvah...

In Israel, everyone over 18 years old, with the exception of conscientious objectors, are required to enter the military...

His friends still in the army came over in their fatigues, weapons slung across their bodies...

Two years ago, I returned to my uncle's home. My education allowed me to ask questions that I had not been able to voice...

In fact, if anyone in my family could be considered hawkish concerning Israeli policy, it was probably me.

I had always felt that the Arabs had been given the opportunity to have peace and failed miserably...

When Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the peace accord with Yasser Arafat this year, I firmly believed that the government had gone too far...

Unfortunately, I seem to have been right. The PLO was about to be given free reign in the occupied territories...

All the talk in the press has dealt with whether the peace process will go forward. The media neglects to discuss the justice due to the families of the 22 innocents...

The tradition of the PLO as a terrorist organization and Arafat as the backer of two separate strategies is not new. One strategy promotes words of peace while the other is the active sponsor and supporter of attacks against Israeli sovereignty...

The rocket attacks of the last week show that this position is riddled with holes. Arab extremists will never allow peace to settle in this area...

Can justice be ignored any longer? Can the PLO continue to be the political power for the Palestinian people, when it has become so obvious that it is unable to do the job adequately?

It is time for the Palestinian people to stand up and decide a future for themselves without the continued support of the PLO. Israel has already gone far in accepting many conditions that threaten its security...

With the Jordanian peace process in full swing, the time has come for the Middle East to come to terms with its bloody past and treat all threats to this process as enemies.

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EDITORIAL

O.J. AND NICOLE

Halloween costumes disregard good taste

Halloween costumes depicting O.J. Simpson and his murdered ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, are among the best selling costumes this holiday...

Those who choose to portray O.J. Simpson, will be donning a trimmed Afro wig, a football jersey, bloody gloves and a fake knife this Halloween...

These costumes are neither witty nor funny, but sickening and possibly damaging to society.

O.J. Simpson's trial has been highly publicized and at times impersonal, but we need to remember that there are families involved who will be affected by those who choose to capitalize on the tragedy.

Denise Brown, Nicole Brown Simpson's sister has asked that the manufacturers of the costumes not to exploit Nicole's death.

current fabricators of the costumes are unlikely to back down, leaving the consumers responsible to grant her requests.

Aside from insulting the members of families associated with the tragedy, such costumes degrade domestic violence and have the potential to insult victims of such violence, women in particular.

Those who choose to dress as the Simpsons should also consider the impact it may have on children. Children are the largest participants in Halloween festivities and such costumes could distort their view of violence and crime.

Halloween is a holiday which allows us to be someone or something else, and all should have the opportunity to enjoy it.

However, costumes say something more about ourselves than just providing a shield to hide behind at parties. They are reflective of who or what we would choose to be, should we ever have the opportunity. This Halloween, we should consider the effects our costumes may have on others.



O.J. Simpson



Big business turns bad when profit outweighs principle

Perhaps it was the pile of aluminum cans in the trash instead of the recycling container where they should have been that heightened my awareness...

ERIN HILL Columnist



I saw it on the second shelf from the top, fifth candy bar in. The label was made with recycled paper and printed with vegetable inks. It was "All Natural" - no refined sugar and no dairy products...

Plus, the company donated 10 percent of its profits to "assist local communities, tribes and organizations." This meant that 20 cents (this eco-treat was a pricey 2 dollars) of my money would go to a worthy cause.

The label promised "incomparable flavor" and they were kind of right. There was no comparison to any other chocolate bar I had ever tasted.

It is unfortunate that so many good causes aren't enough to make this candy bar worth buying, but

when people buy chocolate they want it to taste like something other than fruity wax.

On the bright side, at least this candy company is trying to do the right thing. In such competitive economic times, other businesses are putting some of their good intentions

by the wayside. Companies once labeled "progressive" are now practicing business like the rest of the good ol' boys.

For example, Ben and Jerry's, the makers of gourmet ice cream were long held up as an example of corporate do-gooding. Their highly touted pay scale did not allow any member of the company to make more than 7 times the amount any other employee made...

Sometimes the public doesn't care about good causes and the businesses must cater to what people want. Take Randall's for instance. They have removed their ban on selling alcohol and have noticed "a great increase in business" since they started selling beer and wine...

business because of the absence of alcohol. "A good percent of people are pleased with our decisions," said Cindy Garbs, corporate vice president of public relations for Randall's.

"There are people who have been disappointed in the decision, but they understand the business reasons for it."

Because people were having to go to other stores to pick up their liquor, they ended up purchasing their groceries elsewhere too. Most were not patient enough or did not have the time to go to several different stores. Convenience became most important.

Shame on us.

Let's make cutthroat business practices optional, not mandatory for participation in the Great American Dream.

Many people thought that the Onstead family, owners of the Randall's chain, refused to sell alcohol for religious reasons. Not true. The Onsteads had a close relative who developed a problem with alcohol while working in the grocery business and decided they did not want to facili-

tate those kind of problems. Consequently, they didn't sell alcohol.

Now the Randall's in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and College Station are all selling it. The Houston stores soon will be. Randall's is now no different than any other store.

It is a shame that the Onsteads couldn't practice business the way they wanted to. They were doing something they thought was right - namely not contributing to the problem of alcoholism or alcohol abuse. Now their liquor aisle is the nicest one in town. I walked through it on Thursday night and was amazed by what they offered. It is as if they decided since they couldn't make money not selling it they would make as much money possible selling it.

Many people will disagree that businesses should try to be socially responsible. They feel that companies need to do whatever it takes to make money: step on whomever you want, exploit whomever you can and take whatever you can, right?

We certainly can't force companies to do good (too idealistic), but it would be nice if the business environment in America was kind to those companies who wanted to. Let's make cutthroat practices optional, not mandatory for participation in the Great American Dream.

And let's find a way to make tofu and currants taste good.

Erin Hill is a junior English major



Cartoon's stance wrong

This letter is written in response to the Oct. 21 "Adventures in Aggieland" comic strip. It wrongly portrays the man who drives around professing his faith in Christ. I have never seen him

push his beliefs on anyone or judge anyone as shown in the strip. I see him quietly sit, allowing people to come to him. I hope Greg sees the offense of his drawing. Though it may have been unintentional, it is offensive to some. Isn't there enough degradation of personal beliefs in the world?

Sharayn Wright Class of '95

More on Bonfire site ...

In response to L. Michelle Baggett's Oct. 20 letter: Bonfire is a fine tradition. I love the feeling to have always given

me on that magical night before 'The Big Game.' PLEASE don't let the 45 jerks you ran into at bonfire site completely ruin the positive feelings you may have had about bonfire in the past.

My advice: Try to blow-off whatever obscenities were shouted at you (I realize this is probably easier said than done given your situation) because those (Aggies?) aren't worth it. Bonfire should give all Aggies a great feeling inside.

To the 45 bad guys: Bonfire has been getting a bad rap lately. Being nasty to fellow Aggies or anybody is not going to help the image of this great tradition that you are working so hard to get built. Please try to remember, Bonfire is supposed to make peo-

ple feel good about themselves. Bonfire should unite, not alienate.

Clint D. Stephenson Class of '94

Regarding A&M, racism

I have been attending this school for the past four and a half months and have never been exposed to such vulgarity before in my life. I have been exposed to, seen and heard more about racial situations and stereotyping here at A&M than ever before in my life.

Most people at A&M don't take time to accept individuals for whom they are,

and they are the ones missing out. It's hard to convince people you are no different from anyone else. The more I am exposed to this type of environment on campus, the more I realize I am not proud or happy attending this University.

Melissa Coronado Class of '98

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