

and well and getting anxious to see the light! He's certainly 'relating' with her!

Also, if you demand more 'concrete' evidence, a fetus removed prematurely, even as early as 4 months, can survive. It is very much a human being --so anxious to prove so, it couldn't wait for 9 months!

True, it is my body. But, my body is merely the lodging place for the growth of a seed produced by the union of two people. Just as the soil in my backyard is the home for the seed that grows and blossoms into a flower--a thing of beauty--so also, is a fetus. It grows into a person--someone with intense feelings and desires--a thing of beauty. How could anyone but a selfish person destroy such a masterpiece?

The baby is a part of my flesh--a part of my being--how senseless to destroy such wonder which I myself have created!

Freedom means accepting responsibility for one's actions. If I allow myself to become pregnant, it usually means a baby will be created. By abortion, I would be fleeing the responsibility of helping to develop what I have allowed to be created in me.

It is true that rape cases are sad, and undesired babies may result. Also, that by having the baby, the girl may have a 'traumatic' experience. 'Being born' in itself is traumatic! We all have shocking experiences. Don't worry about there being too many unwanted, unloved babies. Adoption agencies are bombarded with requests they are unable to fulfill.

As to abortions where the mother's life is in danger, I can only offer this:

Life is thrilling! I love it. Though 8 in my family, I am thankful to have had a chance to experience living. I've had a taste of life. How could I be so selfish as to deny my unborn children the wonder of life I have felt? I want to share it. And when only one of us may have life, I will step aside. The baby deserves a chance--I've had mine.

Thank-you for hearing me through,

Theresa M. Harris
Ed. 4

Soon we as a society will have to decide about such exciting things as sperm/ovum baby-markets, cloning of many identical people, pre-'design' of babies and genetic manipulation, and many other possible developments, some of which may lead to great progress and well-being all around, if the right decisions are made. For these decisions we cannot afford to be hazy about what our values are and how they relate to one another.

Your correspondent also says that human beings, for her, do not include those who are without the power to respond to or to have personal relationships with people. She would, therefore, try to kill senile persons and newly-borns; she would kill people whose severe emotional disturbances prevent them from relating to her -- all on the basis of some relatively low value like the need for living-space, for extra public money saved, or public 'peace of mind' at not seeing these unfortunates around. I leave it up to you to decide whether this is a truly human value, or whether this value scale is all messed up.

Your readers know enough by now about the viability of the fetus, the uniqueness of its biological material (quite different from a wart on the mother's ass), the fact that all the pattern of the tree is in the seed just waiting for air, water and the shade of other trees to "bring it about", etc. etc. Your correspondent may also be interested to know (in view of her criterion in the previous paragraph for judging humanness) that impulses can be registered in the relatively dormant brain of a fetus. Some of these emanate internally from the body of the fetus: kinesthetic (a sensing coming from the organs at the tendons and joints) and proprioceptive

(originating in the internal organs). There are also tactual and other cues which are transmitted between the embryo and its limited environment - the mother's womb plus sound waves from outside the mother's body. It has been demonstrated that very simple learning, e.g. the conditioned response, can occur in the human fetus. Thus the apparatus for learning is ready quite early. Does your correspondent wish to let the fetus be killed simply because it's limited by its environment in its capacities to learn and "relate"? From just this point of view it would be equally justified to have a young girl who has been alone in a dark room for a year or so, then, observing that she can't relate to you, to kill her.

In summary of my main point: the value of the human life (fetus or not) is, or should be, a very high moral and social value. The decadence of a society which ignores such a basic human value, and the other supreme value of love, in this way is nauseating. One solution to the problem may be to have more than half-baked contraceptive education for those who wish to use these methods. While for those who do become pregnant, there should be encouragement to have the baby with state support, the babies going either for the adoption waiting list or put in state-aided kibbutzim-type communal child-rearing facilities. As spinoff the latter alternative might teach society what community is and thus remove some of the present over-individualistic, over-competitive neurosis, alienation, and anomie.

Thus, solutions exist, and it is our responsibility to design and create them rather than take the easy way out.

Tony Macelli
Community Development

In response to Anne Ream's letter (*Gateway*, Oct. 9) on abortion, I have a few things to say

Firstly, Peter is not imposing or forcing his opinion on anyone, nor is he personally denying anyone the right to an abortion. He is merely stating his opinion.

Secondly, since you do not consider the human fetus as a human being, because it has no ability to have or respond to personal relationships, what do you say about mentally disturbed persons? Should we kill them too? After all, many of them are unable to have or respond to personal relationships.

Thirdly, no one has to get pregnant in this day and age. If you can't afford the expense of contraceptives, they're free at the Edmonton Health Centre.

Fourthly, society is not "dictated to by a certain group of people." Since abortion is not legal, obviously a majority of the voting population rules that abortion should be illegal. This is known as a democracy (or majority rule). You are asking for anarchy not democracy.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Diane Sell
Arts 2.

Arab - Israel

Long-perverted image, you say. You believe, Mr. Deeb, that the Arabs have been sorely misjudged. In some ways, I agree, but not in the case of your letter. Your blatant accusations not only show your ignorance in certain matters but also that your views of the situation are just as "distorted" as you claim other's are.

In 1967, Israel started the war. Everyone agrees on that, even Israel. However, do not pin the blame on them this time. The Arab nations, knowing full well that whomsoever attacked first had an advantage over the other, sent in their troops, country by country.

Have you considered the

fact, Mr. Deeb, that the captured territory gives Israel room in which to breathe. The Arabs have stated arrogantly on several occasions that they plan "to push Israel into the sea" at the earliest opportunity.

As to your remarks about "wanton raids" and "unprovoked attacks".... Although Israel is not blameless, there are some people who exaggerate their mistakes. Do you remember Munich, Mr. Deeb? Do you remember the Tel Aviv airport? Do you remember Vienna?

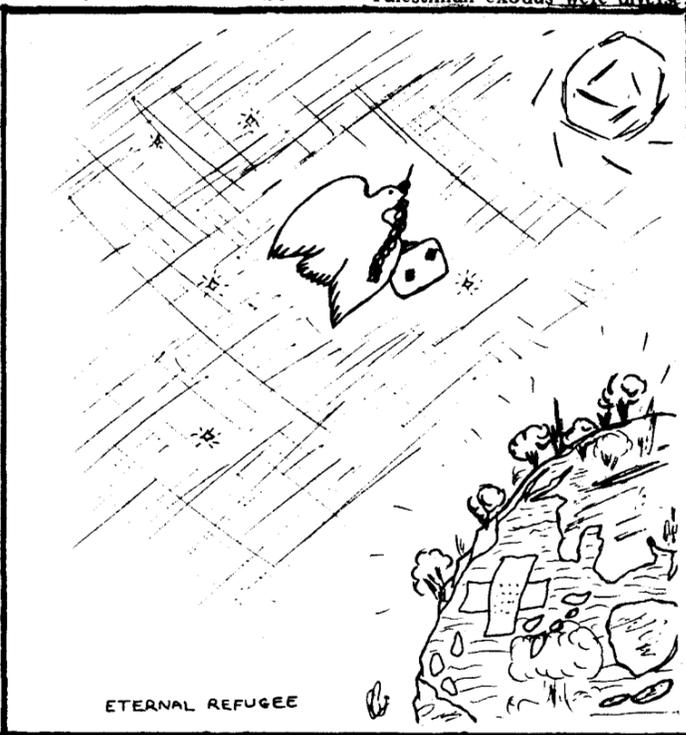
Do the Israelis send letter bombs? Do they shelter men like these Arab commandos, these murderers and do they condone such activities as Lebanon does?

The land that Israel sits on was purchased from the Palestinians by Jews fleeing Hitler and the Soviets. Meanwhile commandos murder in the name of land that is not theirs. The Arab residents of Israel were never asked to leave, they chose to.

Perhaps, Mr. Deeb, you are looking at the situation a little narrowly. I have not begun to show you the other side of the coin. But here is something that expresses Israel's feelings very well. Prime Minister Golda Meir said it. "We can forgive the Arabs for killing Jews, but we cannot forgive them for forcing Jews to kill Arabs."

Eve Rose
Arts, I.

This concerns Mr. Barry Zuckerman's "Background To The Arab-Israeli War." I feel it necessary to object strongly to



this article. It is a motley collection of half truths, mis-quotes, and outright lies which merely restate the most simplistic of Zionist propoganda of the past 25 years.

In Mr. Zuckerman's second paragraph he quotes the Balfour Declaration as "the establishment in Palestine of a Jewish homeland." the declaration actually says "the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People..."; in no place is any reference made to the idea of a Jewish nation state as suggested by Mr. Zuckerman's use of the word "home-land". Even if one presumes that Britain did mean a Jewish nation state for Palestine; Britain had no right to promise Palestine to any group other than the "indigenous Arab population" (quote from Mr. Zuckerman) especially in light of the fact that Palestine was, at that time, a League of Nations Mandate and not a colony as such.

Later on Mr. Zuckerman says that "The Jewish pioneers found the land barren for centuries of neglect." This is untrue. Palestine has never been an agriculturally rich area (though it may have seemed that way to wandering Judaic herdsmen from the arid centre of the Middle Eastern region,) and that land which was brought



under new cultivation by Zionist settlers was relatively small (less than 5% of total cultivated land by 1948.)

In Palestine in 1947 there were 1,280,000 Arabs and 594,000 Jews. The U.N. Partition of Palestine of 1947 gave 57% of the land (and much of the richest agricultural land) to the Zionists, who at that time made up about 25% of the population and owned less than 6% of the land. Within the original Zionist State (the smaller U.N. Partition of Palestine) the population was 499,020 Jews and 509,780 Arabs; and in 9 of the 10 subdistricts of the Zionist state the Arab population exceeded the Jewish.

The reasons for the Palestinian exodus were diverse;

those Palestinians who did leave were not allowed to return to their lands, despite the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 calling for "the refugees wishing to return to their homes...should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date...compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss or damage to property."

The 1956 invasion of Sinai was made after Nasser's nationalization of the Anglo-French Suez Canal Co. by a combined French, British and Israeli force trying to stop the nationalization. Mr. Zuckerman's statement that it was a defensive move by Israel is quite ridiculous.

Mr. Zuckerman's statements on the Six Day War of 1967 are partly true, but I question his idea that Israel tried "every alternative" for peace. The U.A.R. partially mobilized and sent some troops to the Israeli border and called the blockade, after Israel had set up large troop and armour concentrations on the border with Syria. To cap it off, on May 30th Nasser suggested that the Palestine Mixed Armistice Commission be revived to supervise the phased withdrawal of Egyptian and Israeli forces from the border and offered to take the question of the Straits of Tiran (which control the Gulf of Acaba) to the International Court of Justice. On June 5th Israel attacked Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. It should also be noted that though Nasser demanded the withdrawal of the U.N. Emergency Force from Egypt, Israel had never allowed the U.N.E.F. on its side of the border and did not call in the U.N.E.F. when Nasser ordered its presence out of the U.A.R.

It distresses me when a student newspaper should print such a biased article without giving equal space in the same issue to the other side, or at least to a more objective view. By the time this is published the main surge of interest in the Middle East will have subsided and any impact will have decreased considerably. Any view, no matter how objectionable to a newspaper staff, should be allowed equal space and impact in that paper's pages.

Sincerely,
Robert Lewis
Arts 1

The Gateway

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