opinion

yours

MidEast pact undercuts Palestinians

Amid the euphoria of the moment and in the face of the substantial media hype underway on the Egyptian-Israeli "peace treaty" it seems difficult to offer any analysis or conclusions on the treaty that differ from what seems to be a developing bandwagon in its favor.

The treaty was hailed as a genuine framework for a comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects — including its root cause, the Palestine Problem.

We argue that the treaty offers nothing to the Palestinian people except permanent exile and continued occupation. To the Egyptian people it means more poverty and exploitation. To the American people the treaty will bring heavier military involvement of the U.S. government in the Middle East. In addition, the American working people are asked to pay billions of dollars in taxes for military hardware to Egypt and Israel.

The U.S. news media claims that the treaty will bring a just and lasting peace to the area; that it would bring an end to wars; that the Palestinians will benefit from the treaty; that the economic problems of Egypt will be solved by the U.S. and Israeli capital.

But any solution that overlooks the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people is but a temporary smokescreen that denies the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. It is the Palestinian people who live under the yoke of the Israeli occupation. It is the Palestinian people who suffer from the institutional Zionist racism. Furthermore, it is the Palestinian people who have been struggling for the past 50 years for a secular, democratic state in Palestine.

Does the Egyptian-Israeli treaty acknowledge the above essential aspect? Does the treaty acknowledge the United Nations' resolutions on Palestine? The infamous treaty is based on the Camp David Accords. The Accords reached by the U.S., Israel and Egypt, provide for a "self-governing" authority to be set up on the West Bank and the Ghaza to replace the Israeli military government in these areas. This "authority" is going to be set up by people foreign to the Palestinians; the Israelis and the Egyptians.

Palestinians may "participate" in the process, the Accords say, but there are several important conditions, including that these Palestinians will have to be hand-picked by Israel or Egypt. The Palestinian people are therefore now being confronted, as they have been confronted on many occasions in the past 60 years, with fundamental decisions about their own destiny reached without its participatory knowledge or consent.

The treaty will go down in the history of Palestine alongside the Balfour Declaration the British mandate and the partition plan of 1947 — all of which dealt with the Palestinians as objects.

The Treaty, along with the Camp David framework, divides the Palestinian people into separate categories and offers different formulas for dealing with their respective situations. There are the inhabitants of the West Bank and Ghaza, those who were displaced from the West Bank and Ghaza and the refugees of 1948. The dismemberment of the Palestinian people, which is in itself a symptom of its tragedy, has been transformed into a permanent feature of the proposed American-Israeli-Egyptian final solution to the Palestinian problem.

What the signatories of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty propose is that less than one-third of the Palestinian people (living in the West Bank and Ghaza) may attain a fraction of its rights (not including its inalienable rights to self-determination) in a fraction of its homeland (one-fifth of the area of the whole of Palestine). Beyond that, the vast majority of Palestinians is condemned to permanent loss of its Palestinian national identity, to permanent exile, to the permanent separation of most Palestinians from one another and from Palestine.

In short, the treaty excludes the three basic rights of the Palestinian people that have been recognized and affirmed by the UN; their right to self-determination, their right to be represented by their sole representative, the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and the right of the dispossessed Palestinians to return to their homes and property.

The Treaty is not a tragedy to the extent that it ignored Palestinian rights; so much as it is a force to the extent that the signatories must have truly assumed that they could impose such a solution on the Palestinians and make it work.

This treaty will not go unchallenged by the Palestinian people, for at their command are not only the resources of the revolution but also the will of the Palestinians to continue their struggle for a secular democratic state in Palestine.

Falasteen Horrah
Committee for
Free Palestine

'Decent treatment'

Governor Atiyeh's proposal to hike foreign student tuition by 110 percent in the coming academic year is not only downright discriminatory, but un-American, un-Oregonian and unwise. Let me explain: America has been known for its hospitality and receptivity to "foreigners" since the Pilgrim days. Had it not been for the great American generosity, neither the parents of Gov. Atiyeh, nor my children, would be entitled to call themselves Americans, and America would have remained the unsullied, uncontaminated land of nature, with no need for governors or education.

The progress of a nation or a state requires the cultural exchange and intellectual influences of the outside world. Foreign students are an apt medium for cultural pollination, preventing provincialism and stagnation.

Among the 50 states of the nation, Oregon, in particular, has been proverbially known for its friendliness to foreign students. This, in addition to its reasonable tuition rate, may account for the proportionately large number of foreign students that Oregon can pride itself in having educated. Many of our foreign alumni currently occupying key positions in their home countries are well-disposed toward the United States because of the decent treatment they received in the State of Oregon. Should Oregon, now under the governorship of Atiyeh, be the only state in the Union to discriminate against foreign students by placing them in a separate category for a drastically higher tuition than even non-resident fees?

With dwindling enrollment of native-born students in higher education, the national trend is to make up the deficit by encouraging more foreign students to enroll. If money is the governor's object, this outrageous, discriminatory tuition hike ($2770 per year for foreign students, and $1992 for non-residents) is not only unfair, but unwise. Foreign students will take the Governor's mercenary action as hostility to other nationals, and decide to transfer to states where they are more welcome. Oregon universities will then lose the sizable income they now receive from foreign students.

The Governor with his shrewd businessman's background should know a better way to raise money. The loss of foreign students may mean not only the loss of enrollment, but the loss of prestige and good will, values which cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

Angela Jung
professor and acting head,
Department of East
Asian Languages
and Literatures

'In bad taste'

To this point in the elections process I have chosen to not take a stand in favor of either presidential candidate — now I feel that I must. I feel compelled to speak out against Amy Tobias' accusations concerning Scott Bassett's IFC voting record. Scott does not vote for programs on the basis of their political sway!

On many occasions Scott could have taken less controversial stands with, what I would consider, politically influential programs. I base these statements on the simple facts that I have personally sat through the Incidental Fee hearings all this year with Scott and have discussed his voting record with him.

I have worked with both Amy, on the EMU Board, and with Scott, on the IFC. I feel I know both candidates relatively well and, in fact, I worked with Amy very early in her campaign. What's more, I consider them both friends (perhaps Amy will not agree once she has read this letter). However, the latest political moves of Amy have been most underhanded and in bad taste. I believed this entire campaign would be fair and up-front; it appears that I was wrong.

Kevin Chambers
IFC member
junior, telecommunications

Holocaust Week

This week, we recall the holocaust of World War II, in which six million Jews perished. The theme of this week is 'Zahor,' which translated from Hebrew means "remember." It is imperative that mankind is made to remember the horrid folly of his past in order that unborn generations do not commit the same sins.

Not only Jews died during the holocaust, though it is a Jewish holiday, Yom Hashoa, or Day of the Holocaust, which reminds us of Hitler's reign of murder. Political dissidents, opposing churchmen, gypsies and homosexuals, as well as others completely innocent of any crime, met their deaths in front of firing squads and in the gas chambers.

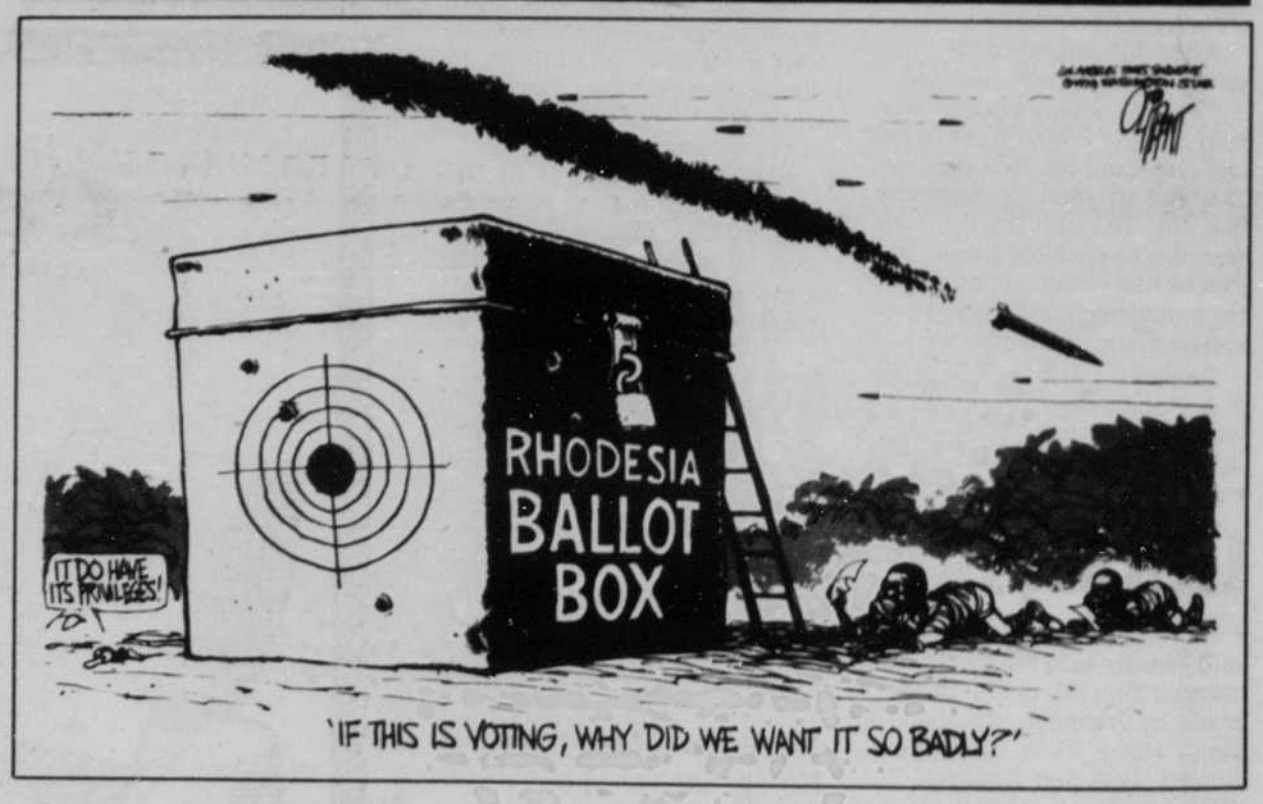
We must remember that the holocaust is not a new phenomenon, unique to our century or Nazi Germany. Holocausts pock man's history since the beginning of time. Man must realize that nothing but his knowledge of the past and his rationality prevents another holocaust from occurring.

The six million who died during the holocaust were our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, not just Jews or non-Jews, and not just numbers. Remember them for their sakes, and your own.

David Berne
Jewish Student Steering
Committee

'Keep your masks'

I hope that the Iranian students who demonstrated a couple of months ago against their authoritarian leader haven't thrown away their masks. It looks like they are going to need them again . . and again.

Robin Pfeiffer
graduate, counseling

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