

Invading Lebanon — Israel's big mistake

In June 1982, calling it a mission for "Peace in Galilee," the Israeli army crossed into southern Lebanon. The purpose, according to Israeli military authorities, was to clear the border region of Palestinian guerrillas, who had used the area for bombing raids on Israeli border towns. Israel never stopped at the 12 mile point which it had publicly stated was its limit in crossing into Lebanon. Instead, Israeli troops marched into Beirut, and in the ensuing violence and military chaos that followed, thousands of civilians were killed and tens of thousands were made homeless.

Three years later, Israeli troops are still in Lebanon. Far from bringing peace to the region, Israel's military adventure has proved to be one of the biggest mistakes that country has made. It has tarnished Israel's reputation in the international community, demoralized soldiers within the Israeli army, and led to political divisions and social turmoil at home. More than anything else, it shows that military force will never rid Israel of the Palestinian issue. That will only come about through a negotiated settlement for a Palestinian homeland.

Israel must withdraw completely from Lebanon and do it fast. The longer Israeli troops remain, the longer they will be the target of violent attacks by various anti-Israel militias. In the words of Abba Eban, "Hostility arose as a result of the prolongation of our military presence (in Lebanon)."

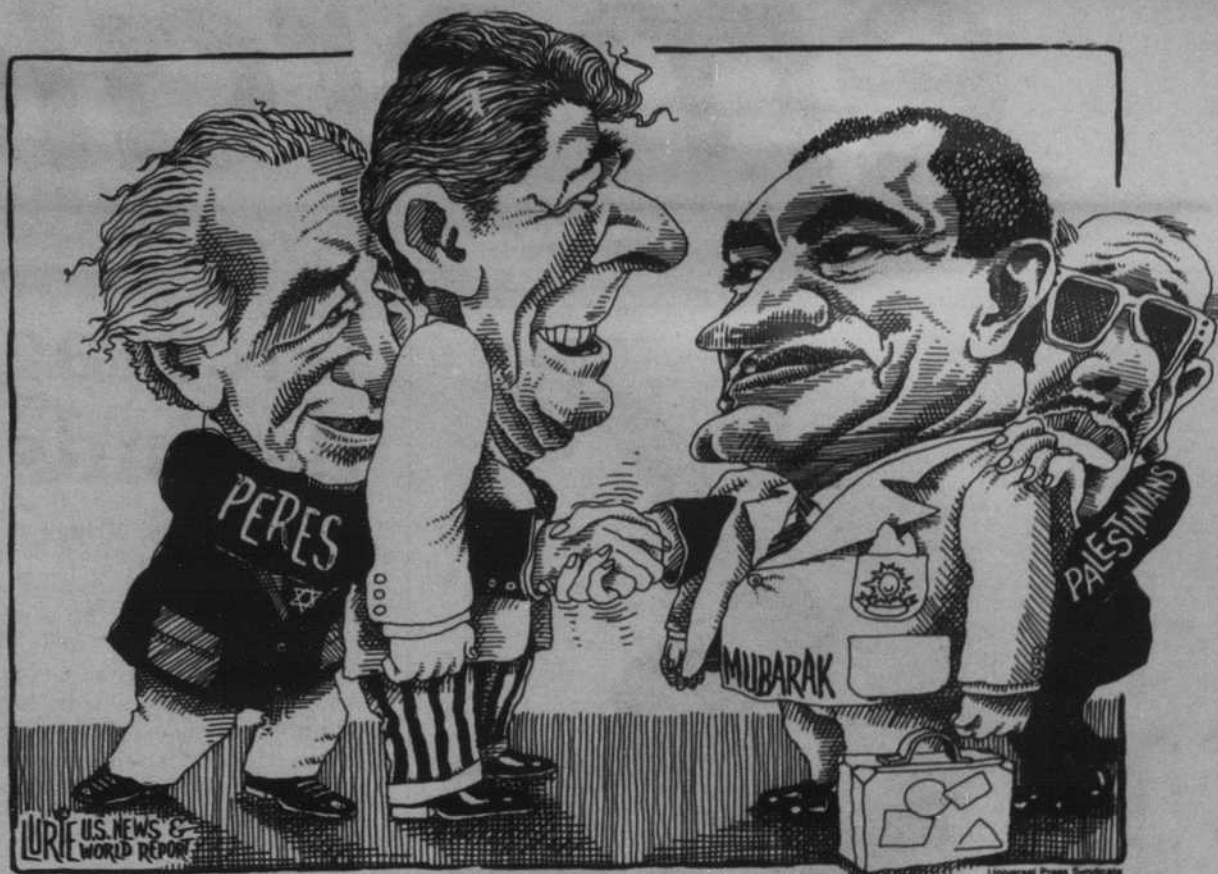
The suicide car bombing on Sunday that left 12 Israeli soldiers dead and 14 wounded, followed by Israel's retaliatory attack on the village of Zrariyah, killing 34 people, demonstrates the endless cycles of violence that continue to operate in Lebanon. Israel's attempt at an "Iron Fist" crackdown, including dusk-to-dawn curfews and military raids on towns still under Israeli control, is a big mistake. It will only serve to escalate the violence and has already led to a condemnation within the U.N. Security Council, a condemnation unfortunately vetoed by the United States.

The Israeli Peace Now movement was right when, in 1982, they declared the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to be a military blunder and demanded an immediate troop withdrawal. Ignoring that advice has led Israel down a path of military chaos which has brought suffering upon both the Lebanese and Israeli people. There is no more time to waste. Israel should get out of Lebanon now.

Forcing U.S. objectives on New Zealand is wrong

It seems that the Administration of President Ronald Reagan has chosen to make New Zealand an example of what happens when a previously strong ally refuses to participate in U.S. nuclear weapons strategy. The unfortunate result is a growing animosity between the peoples of these two countries.

At the heart of the issue lies New Zealand's desire to remain free of U.S. nuclear weapons. They don't want the weapons on their soil or in their territorial waters. Fearing that New Zealand could set an example for other U.S. allies to follow, the Reagan administration has hit back hard. Joint military exercises with New Zealand have been cancelled. Trade sanctions have been threatened, and defense agreements such as intelligence sharing have been terminated. All of this is to try and force New Zealand to allow U.S. ships carrying nuclear weapons to enter that country's waters. In so doing, the United States is showing that it cares not for the democratic wishes of another country, but only for its own military objectives.



"Welcome to the U.S.A., President Mubarak!"

letters

No evaluations

The publication of teacher evaluations has been proposed by the Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) "to aid students in selecting classes." (Feb. 18) As a student, I am against the SUAB proposal, because even if the evaluation booklet may aid students in a few minor ways, its actual benefits would be minimal.

One favorable result of the evaluation booklet would be that students get an opportunity, although minute, to let other students know how teachers teach. That is, however, not good enough to compensate for its cost, because the major part of the cost includes the uncomfortableness of faculty members with the unfair judgment by students. Student opinion alone is not a good judge.

It is also doubtful that many University students will use the booklet as a tool in finding teachers who will benefit them most. The number of those students wouldn't be so much as SUAB expects. At the University of Washington, for example, it is said that approximately 10 students used the evaluation booklet each quarter, so that its publishing was, at last, halted.

I dare to assume further that, with that booklet, most students would be looking for a so-called easy teacher to get a good grade

rather than an academically prominent one. Then, which teacher would be more beneficial for students in terms of education? College education, which should have been called an ivory tower, seems to be like a stock market just for a grade in the Eugene area.

Jan Jin
Political Science

Serious issue

The February 27 speech by the young Nicaraguan in self-exile and its ensuing coverage by the Emerald would be amusing for its naivete were it not for the serious implications such propaganda poses for those in search of peace in Nicaragua. Serious criticism of the elected Nicaraguan government is certainly warranted, as is serious criticism of any government forced to militarize its society. But rationalizations and misinformation such as those put forth by Mr. Montalvan pale in the face of his statement that, "Although Somoza was a dictator, his government usually did not interfere with the people's lives as long as they stayed out of politics."

How can we take seriously a young man who implies that Somoza's Nicaragua was tolerable for the Nicaraguans so long as they quietly accepted the hunger and unemployment of their backward republic? The truth of the matter is that the very reason the Nicaraguan people began to challenge the status quo of repression which kept their families imprisoned in poverty is that the conditions in Nicaragua were intolerable under Somoza's rule.

Peace in Nicaragua will not be achieved through uninformed rhetoric but through our conscious decision that people have the right to determine for themselves how best to live in dignity.

Guy Burton
Kevin Perry
Eugene

Please vote

A special election is scheduled for March 26 (Tuesday of spr-

ing break). In Eugene, the following items will be on the ballot:

- 1) Funding request: Eugene Library.
- 2) Funding request: Lane Community College.
- 3) Openings: school and special district boards.
- 4) Street-widening project for 6th and 7th Streets.

Typically, 3 to 15 percent of the voters in central Eugene — 1 percent on campus — vote in special elections, as opposed to 30 to 35 percent of the rest of the city. This leaves the community with the impression that persons in this area are apathetic and thus not worth consulting about local affairs.

Lane County voters wishing to vote who will be out of town should apply for an absentee ballot. Send a letter to the Elections Division, 135 E. 6th St., Eugene, OR 97401, containing:

- 1) Absentee ballot request in writing signed by the applicant (full legal signature).
- 2) Brief statement: why you cannot vote in person.
- 3) Residence address and address where ballot is to be delivered.

It is important for central Eugene residents to vote in special elections to ensure that local officials take an interest in this area. If you ignore these elections, the local government will feel justified in ignoring you.

Jeffrey Osanka
PPPM

Bigotry

I was shocked to see the graphic depiction of religious bigotry in the EMU display case this week. If the Maranatha Christian Ministry wants to display their intolerance of other religions, one would hope that they would be somewhat discreet about it. I mean, like, there are children who walk through the EMU. What if a six-year-old girl were to look at that disgusting display?

Jack Straton
Physics

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oregon daily emerald

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