

editorial

Slaughter symbolizes Palestinian tragedy

The tragedy of the Palestinian people is not simply the product of an Arab-Israeli conflict. During the past 10 days, three Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut have been surrounded by Shiite Moslem forces. Beirut police estimate that more than 390 people have been killed and about 1,755 have been wounded since the battle for the camps began.

According to the Associated Press, Shiite military forces unleashed the offensive on the camps in order to smash Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yassir Arafat's attempt to rebuild the Beirut power base he lost during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Certainly, the PLO has been responsible for many tragic terrorist acts in past years, and Yassir Arafat has done little to ensure the survival of Israel. Nevertheless, the Palestinian people are pawns in a tragic Middle East power struggle.

While the governments of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Egypt and Libya all vehemently criticize Israel for treating Palestinians as second-class citizens, none of these governments has undertaken a humanitarian program geared toward the protection of the Palestinians. Not one oil rich Arab country has developed a comprehensive aid program structured for the economic relief of the Palestinians.

Other than the late-Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was murdered for his attempts, not one of these nations has seriously tried to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict. In fact, Jordan's King Hussein ordered the mass execution of Jordan's Palestinian population in 1970.

The Israelis are also responsible for the current slaughter in the camps.

No Israeli government has ever sincerely worked for the establishment of an autonomous Palestinian homeland on Israel's West Bank. Instead, recent Israeli regimes have ignored the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians.

The United States must also accept responsibility for the slaughter. While the Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations all stated their support for a Palestinian homeland, none of them placed any legitimate pressure on the Israeli government to negotiate with the Palestinians. Instead they continued to increase annual aid expenditures to the Israelis.

Current events in Lebanon are truly tragic. Shiite Moslem indiscriminately murder men, women and children; no one can justify these acts. But we all must share responsibility for the almost 40-year plight of these homeless people.

The past week's events demonstrate one more time why the Palestinians must have their own secure nation.

New EMU Board policy is a victory for students

The EMU Board must be applauded for its decision last Thursday, initiating a new EMU affirmative action policy.

Several weeks ago, board members approved a policy that would have excluded non-student groups that violate University affirmative action guidelines, from using the EMU. The policy was specifically targeted against the military and the CIA, which discriminate on the basis of sexual preference.

At the time of its passage, President Paul Olum and the Emerald both opposed the policy fearing that it would limit issue-oriented discussion on the campus. Olum, who has the authority to veto such rulings, asked the board to negotiate a new, more agreeable policy.

The new policy requires that all groups using EMU peg boards, lobby tables and office space, post their position on affirmative action, and they must state whether they discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The new policy is a healthy one. Rather than closing channels of free speech, it will enlighten students about the individual organizations using the EMU. We believe that access to information is key to a University education. The new policy enhances such access.

And you threw out ash trays from high school shop class

A Navy inspection revealed Wednesday that Grumman Aerospace Corp. charges them:

- \$660 for two ashtrays.
 - \$400 for a pair of socket wrenches.
 - \$2,710 for a clamping device that cost \$107 in 1983.
- What more can we say?



letters

Free advice

Advice to next year's EMU Cultural Forum:

1. When the Willamette Folk Festival is open for auditions, the announcement should include the names of all selection committee members. Shrouding their identity in secrecy leads to the perception, probably correct, that the selection process is subjective and unaccountable.

2. Do not restrict the auditions to tapes and records. Anyone can perform countless takes of the same song until it is right, yet be unable to do it right the first time on stage. Live auditions should be held for those musicians who prefer it, with all selection committee members present. The auditions should be free to the public, prominently advertised, and open to all musicians in an open microphone format, with 15 to 30 minutes per act. The sound system should accommodate blank cassette tapes, supplied by the auditioning musicians, to be retained by the selection committee during the selection process, and then returned to the auditioning musicians so that all receive a live tape for their efforts.

3. The musicians in the Friday afternoon session should receive the same billing and advertising as all other musicians, and all should be on the same stage. To do otherwise is to publicly ridicule the opening acts as second-class musicians. Equal treatment will be impossible so long as an "outdoor

beer garden" is integrated with the folk festival, because the audience would have to be removed after the Friday afternoon session, and then be carded and charged admission to get right back inside the fence.

Richard Phillips
Eugene

Trash

I have long suspected an element of non-intellectualism on this campus. With the furor over Playboy's photographer, David Chan, I'm now quite convinced of it.

Perhaps, while attending this university, these students could take a lesson in logical arguing. Then they might sound as if they belong here.

Sound arguments are based in fact, not emotion, illogic, insubstantial evidence or innuendo.

The protest, editorial and letters against Playboy are guilty of all four. I have not seen a scrap of evidence for anything that's been said against

Playboy. On what do they base their information?

Freedom of the press guarantees there can be publications like Playboy and the Oregonian, and also trash like Hustler and the Oregon Daily Emerald. School has taught me to see the difference for myself.

I spent two hours with David Chan and Sherril Snow that Monday. They were delightful, and seemed to enjoy my company, likewise. Our conversation might have surprised some, and if you ask me nicely, I might show you the portraits David took.

By the way, we suspected one of the protesters also came for an interview for the pictorial.

I'd also like to say something to the Women's Resource and Referral Service: just because we have the same type of reproductive organs doesn't mean we have anything else in common. Your sexist behavior has deeply offended this egalitarian.

Colleen Mahoney
Eugene

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

Oregon daily

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