

## U.S. allies' caution a sign of uncertainty

While the United States and Libya posture and spit over one incident after another, a crowd of gawkers gathers and mumbles background noises. Likely U.S. supporters are present, but curiously silent.

Since last Wednesday's dogfight over the Mediterranean Sea, in which two Libyan MiG-23 jet fighters were destroyed, the United States has noticed a marked lack of enthusiasm on the part of its longtime friends.

Rather than sulk, this country should show some understanding.

U.S. allies, like the rest of us, suffer from an overdose of bad news. Technological blunders and outright human goofs have seemingly boobytrapped the world's airways. 20th century war machinery has grown into a hydra with too many heads for even the most Herculean efforts of mortal men. Who can blame onlookers for remaining cautious, for withholding support until the evidence they hope to see returns from the lab?

Such a demonstration of hesitancy should come as little surprise in light of the Vincennes tragedy, which the United States blamed both on Libya's carelessness and the sophistication of our own war wizardry. Initially, the official line was that the U.S. planes were under attack and acted defensively. If that sounds familiar, it should. A wait-and-see attitude on the part of U.S. allies is hardly surprising as a result.

As the world wonders how a tragedy of such proportions as the Vincennes incident — or for that matter, the Soviet downing of a Korean jetliner — is possible, explanations inevitably point to the fact that the enemy's aggression necessitates living in a snakepit for self-protection. We are told that modern weaponry travels too fast and wreaks too much havoc to allow for analysis: Our side cannot afford to wait and see.

In addition, support from allies may have cooled a bit since the United States alienated itself with an open condemnation of Yasser Arafat's purported mission of peace when the rest of the world (except Israel, of course) showed a willingness to listen. Since realizing the unpopularity of its decision, the Reagan administration has been forced to re-evaluate its stand on Arafat's intentions.

But it rightfully remains skeptical about the intentions of both the PLO and Libya. Past evidence seems to support U.S. decisions in each case. But unlike Arafat, Ghadafi has shown no intention of seeking peace. Libya has demonstrated irrational behavior in the past, and its leader tends to favor exaggeration and ludicrous accusations.

Now that the evidence is in, Libya appears once again to be lying. For U.S. allies, the coast is clear for support.

But the United States should not be surprised if the next confrontation generates the same air of silent caution. After all, most intelligent Americans have learned the wisdom of the same response.

## Middle East peace plan best tactic against Libya

After all the fur and feathers float earthward concerning the two downed Libyan fighter jets, both sides will have what they want.

Libya will have been handed the opportunity to fabricate stories about how the United States continues to prove itself a trespassing bully and truth doctor, and the United States will have had the opportunity to flex its muscles and show how appalled it is.

The two Libyan fighter pilots apparently bailed out to safety, and so had their moment of glory. So no one was hurt.

No one, that is, except those waging a battered and bruised struggle for peace in the Middle East.

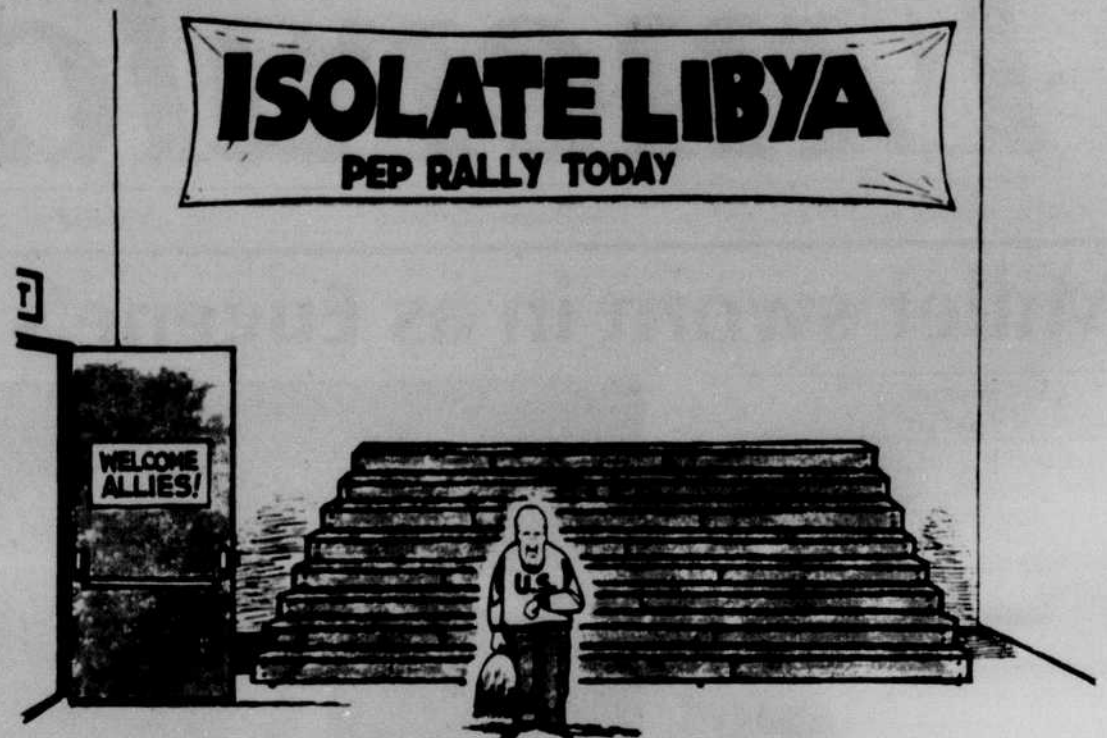
As long as Ghadafi continues to act like chief dog of the walk, the U.S. is likely to want him on a short leash. The U.S.'s bulky military presence in Libya's backyard seems only to irk Ghadafi, not to give him pause. Apparently, only pressure from his allies will convince the Libyan leader to reconsider an appointment with infamy.

We can only hope that Ghadafi's accusations of U.S. trigger-happiness, as well as reciprocal fears that Libya plans a large-scale escalation of worldwide terrorism, are unfounded.

In any event, the best solution seems to be continued efforts to achieve peace elsewhere. As is generally the case, peace generates peace.

This country can best be served by participation in the spirit of cooperation that certain countries with histories of aggression have recently adopted.

SKELLY



## Letters

### Out of line

This is a letter in response to the one printed on Monday, Dec. 5. I strongly feel that the person who wrote the letter about the Greek system was completely out of line. He accused the entire system of something two people supposedly did.

What I do not understand is how this man can call the Greek system racist and closed-minded when he has never been a part of it. For one, the past president of IFC is Iranian, and the past president of my sorority is Japanese. Second, if he would have opened his mind and ears he would know that the high school girls began the whole ordeal by yelling unnecessary comments at the two guys. Also, the guys' response was not what the letter said.

Unfortunately the Greek system rarely gets recognized for the good, but mostly the bad. Some examples of the good things are: the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority raised \$10,000 with the Sig Eps from OSU for Cystic Fibrosis, Lambda Chi Alpha and Gamma Phis raised over \$2,000 for cancer.

I am sorry that some people have the attitude that the whole system is some awful, racist group of people when there are so many people who are kind, considerate, and helpful. Many of the houses pride themselves because they are so diverse. Instead of jumping to conclusions, get to know us. We are human too.

Mindy Werle  
Sorority member

### See no evil

Judi Metzler's letter (ODE, Dec. 5) contained the best idea yet. Let's just ignore all the "evils" of animal research and concentrate on the "good". While we're at it, let's ignore the evils of child abuse, rape, and the violation of human rights throughout the world. Let's also ignore the millions of Americans without primary health care and the plight of the homeless. Let's ignore all the evil in the world and pretend this is a wonderful place to live ....

Thank goodness the reality is that more people in the world are willing to look at the evil and injustice committed against all sentient beings (human and non-human). Turning away from evil does not make it go away!

Elizabeth Fleetwood  
Sophomore

### Thank you

I would like to thank all the people who donated their time to me during my medical leave for chemotherapy. It was a hard four months physically and mentally, but your support made it more bearable.

So far, the prognosis is looking good and I'm in remission. I have to continue seeing my doctor for one and a half years and so we're praying it will all stay well.

Dan Hayes  
Central power station

### Nazi crimes

Gary Murrell, you alleged recently in your commentary (ODE, Dec. 6.) that Jewish survivors of the Nazi holocaust perpetrate the same kind of crimes against Palestinian Arabs that the Nazis perpetrated against Jews and many others.

I have a challenge for you, and any one else who has made the same charge: First, watch a film on the holocaust. The recent ABC program "War and Remembrance" and the documentary "The World at War" are but two examples of films that depict Nazi crimes in some detail. I would be happy to assist you in obtaining a copy of these or any other film that perhaps you know of.

Then, present proof that your allegations are true: that Israelis engage in the same uniquely horrible crimes that set Nazis apart from all other regimes, such as murdering thousands of people daily with poison gas, shooting thousands of naked people in open pits, or making soap and lamp shades out of murder victims.

If you cannot present this evidence, Mr. Murrell, then you owe an apology to every holocaust survivor and to every Israeli for this insidious and libelous slander. And if you won't respond at all, then the fair and open-minded readers of this journal will draw the proper conclusions and disregard your article and the falsehoods it contains.

David Shayne  
Eugene

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