

**LETTERS**

**Typical U.S.**

As the Israeli philharmonic entertained audiences in Los Angeles late in July, that country's military rained terror on one-half million south Lebanese civilians, turning them into refugees.

Ironically, on July 15, the U.S. House of Representatives cut U.S. funds for emergency refugee relief from \$49 million to \$19 million, recommending that most of the difference be used to help Israel settle Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

This pro-Israeli shift of money, typical of the U.S. Congress, comes at a time when the number of Soviet emigres to Israel has dramatically declined. The allocation of funds to Israel has come at a time when the country has acknowledged that it may not need the \$10 billion in loan guarantees it lobbied for two years.

It should be noted that every day American taxpayers send \$14 million to the Jewish state.

American friends of Israel are not only in the U.S. Congress, but in the administration of President Bill Clinton. The president's chief Middle East strategist is Martin Indyk, formerly a lobbyist for Israel.

While Israeli representation in American culture is all-encompassing, the Islamic Middle East is ignored even at schools such as the University. No department, not even the University's international studies program, offers courses on the Middle East.

Consequently, students may conclude their baccalaureate studies without ever knowing anything about one of the most significant regions of our world.

The biased policies of the U.S. government toward Israel since its creation in 1948 has only brought instability for that country and disdain for the United States' practices in the Middle East.

M. Reza Behnam  
Eugene

**S.O.S.**

Our poverty and my desperation to leave this leper's island some day led me to write to you and beg you to please publish this letter because I'm longing to find a kind someone from among your subscribers who may pity me and help me.

I come from a poor family of five children. My parents are both children of lepers who were raised up on this miserable place. They were not able to attain formal education. My father has no stable job to support us, and my mother launders for other people to help my father earn for a living. We are so poor that my parents could not even afford to provide us with enough food to eat.

The only consolation that I have to be born here is the free education that I enjoy from elementary up to high school that is provided by our government for the indigent children of this colony. My two elder sisters have quit schooling because they, too, need to work to help with our family income. But I value education so much that I choose to continue my studies despite the hardships that I encounter, like going to school with an empty stomach and with no decent school clothes to wear.

I am in my final year in high school and will be graduating in march next year, and I desperately wish to be able to continue from college. I wish so much to pursue a four-year course in architecture in one of the universities in Manila, and I need a sponsor to help me fulfill my dream.

I beg you with all of my heart, please print this letter in your newspaper so that I will have a chance to find someone who may be so kind and generous to educate me. I will forever be so grateful to him or her, I promise.

Carl Jennilyn Morales  
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