

Terrorism in Palestine must not stop peace process

By Phil Zuckerman

There is a scene in the movie *JFK* where Kevin Costner and a friend go to a local bar to watch the TV report of the assassination of Kennedy. As they sit and watch the horrible newscast, a few people in the bar holler gleefully at the news of the president's murder. At that point, Costner says to his friend in a voice full of grief and helplessness, "Today I am ashamed to be an American."

While the circumstances are drastically different, as I sit here and read about the murderous slaughter that just occurred in the city of Hebron in occupied Palestine, I can't help feeling a sense of shame. As a Jew and a supporter of the state of Israel, I feel disgusted, depressed and dreadfully sorry about the news that an American-born Jewish Israeli "settler" (occupier) opened fire

on praying Palestinians yesterday, killing up to 40 and wounding more than 100 innocent people.

Do I feel personally guilty? Of course not. Just because one insane gunman halfway across the world who happens to be Jewish butchers in cold blood dozens of Muslims while they knelt in prayer in their mosque does not implicate every Jew worldwide, needless to say. The guilt of that bloodshed lies solely on the shoulders of the man who pulled the trigger.

Yet while I justly feel no personal guilt, I cannot help feeling a sense of communal shame. Having been raised on the history of my own people's persecution, having been raised on the stories of my own family's destruction in the Jewish holocaust, having been raised upon traditional tenets of Jewish morality and the ethical spirit of Rabbi Hillel, I

cannot help feeling mortified and ashamed that in the state of Israel such atrocities, carried out by the hands of supposed "religious" Jews, are taking place.

Although the horrendous slaughter was carried out by a crazed individual, the incident must be seen in its full, sinister context. It is an incident that makes perfect sense under the conditions of the Israeli state-sanctioned oppression of Palestinians that has been going on for decades.

While the hostility of Arab governments and the terrorism of Muslim fundamentalists have certainly and undeniably added tension and blood to the region, the Israeli government is profoundly guilty of condoning violence, of fostering the hatred that led up to the massacre. Through the very act of occupation, through its support of the Jewish settlers, and through the wide-

spread racism that has been allowed to flourish in Israeli society, the government and army of Israel are largely to blame. The murder of the Palestinians in Hebron was bound to happen.

When living in Israel, I experienced the hateful climate firsthand. I remember groups of Jews crowding on street corners in Jerusalem shouting "Death to Arabs!" I remember reading daily in the newspapers of Israeli soldiers shooting and killing children in the streets of Gaza. I remember visiting homes of the Jewish "settlers" and listening to them explain the need for "removing" the Arab population from Israel as the preferable solution. I remember being attacked by fellow Jewish students as a traitor and self-hating anti-Semite for daring to criticize the Israeli army in its use of violence against a civilian population. No, it was not isolated

incident. The massacre in Hebron, as Michael Lerner of *Tikkun* magazine so rightly claimed, was predictable.

Let us hope that the action of this Jewish terrorist does not succeed in derailing the peace process. Let us condemn all the fanatics and fundamentalists within our midst, both Jew and Arab, who are enemies to peace in their selfish and savage mania. Let us hope that one day soon Israel will not be characterized by racism and militarism but will be the true Jewish homeland of morality and humanity that its founders intended it to be. But more importantly, in this critical juncture, let us hope for a free Palestine and for the well being of Palestinians in this hour of mourning.

Phil Zuckerman is a graduate teaching fellow in the sociology department at the University.

LETTERS

Ground Zero

The Committee for World Peace will collect humanitarian aid and show a video titled *Sarajevo: Ground Zero* Wednesday.

We launched a project called "Spirit of Sarajevo" one month ago after establishing a network with peace/humanitarian organizations throughout the former Yugoslavia. Besides stopping this senseless war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we have a long-term goal. That is, the mitigation of the war's effects and support of peace projects in the former Yugoslavia. We wish to maintain and enhance the spirit of Sarajevo — a symbol of civility and tolerance among different nationalities.

Things that you can bring are clothes, canned food, books, educational items — anything needed for daily life. The humanitarian aid will be distributed among Bosnian refugees who have recently arrived in Washington state. The aid will be collected from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in front of the EMU Oak Room Wednesday. The video will be shown Wednesday at 6 in the Oak Room. The video describes the situation of Sarajevo under siege, from personal tragedy to

characteristics of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We encourage you to come see the reality of the war in the heart of Europe. If you are interested in our project or organization, you are welcome to contact the following people: Shin Yasui (344-9290), Shingo Furukawa (342-5874), Don Stacy (484-1307) and Renata Filipovic (346-9700).

**Shin Yasui
Pre-Journalism**

Self-acceptance

I was sitting in the EMU when suddenly I had a realization. In the past I've hated Jews, simply because they had something that I didn't: Namely, a cultural heritage that they could feel good about.

I don't; the only culture I've grown up with is based on exploitation and ultimately death. I spent the first 20 years of my life in front of a TV screen. All I ate was white bread.

Now don't get me wrong. I've never outwardly maligned Jews or oppressed them in any way, at least not consciously. I've always kept my hatred buried deep and stepped down hard on it whenever it rose to the sur-

face, just the same way the Jews have been treated historically.

Jewish people have had the function, in my experience, of making me aware of what I've most hated in myself. Now that I'm learning to accept that I have these feelings, this awareness is allowing me to release my judgments against Jewish people and others who allow me to feel feelings I've previously denied I had.

Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he said that "salvation is of the Jews." Maybe they've been holding on to the feelings that others couldn't accept within themselves and have been providing a reflection for the rest of us.

Full self-acceptance requires full disclosure, so express yourself, but don't beat on others because they remind you of your own self-hatred.

This will work for everyone.
**Jeffrey Daniel Oswald
Eugene**

MEChA is neat

Hola! I like MEChA. It is really neat. MEChA does lots of really dope things at the Universidad de Oregon. Some people don't like MEChA because we do lots of really neat things like

helping our community and bringing Latino students to the Universidad de Oregon.

Shame, shame, shame on MEChA. What are they thinking, wanting money to do all these cool things? MEChA has lots of bullies who bother IFC members so they can't breathe. I think Tonya Harding should be in MEChA; she's a really neat bully. I think some IFC members are neat; Joey Lyons has neat hair. Some IFC people aren't so neat, but I don't think naming her name would be neat. It would be really neat if MEChA got its money so it can do really neat things for "La Raza."

**Ramiro Flores
MEChA Member**

Racist journal

The editorial in the *Emerald* of Feb. 22 brought up the valid point that the word "racist" is often used incorrectly. This is understandable in a University where cultural awareness is forced on students. The *Emerald* says that the *Oregon Commentator* is one of the targets of this unjust labeling. Yet *Commentator* staffers have, through their actions and their articles, clearly shown their racism and ignorance.

Implying that TacoTime workers are stupid "Hispanics" who don't speak English is racist. Saying that Native Americans should've had the foresight to put money they received (when pushed off their native lands by threat of death) in the bank is ignorant. They have even ridiculed the dire situation in Eastern Europe (of course, the Slavs have been discriminated against before — in World War II Germany, for example).

The *Commentator* insists that this is innocent humor. Maybe it's just me, but I don't consider referring to a respected officer in the Black Student Union as "that fat black bitch" (with the office door open) innocent and humorous. I also don't find the stare that people of color are subjected to when passing their office to be very funny either.

I guess this is all OK to these people who call themselves the "White Student Union." This goes beyond a simple "request for office space." It is sad that this blatant racism is ignored by both the administration and the *Emerald*. I hope this isn't the case with the rest of the students and faculty, on both sides of the political spectrum.

**Nikki Okimoto
Journalism**

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