

# opinions

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The Daily Collegian  
Monday, Sept. 27

## editorial opinion

### Of nuclear war and sewers

When the nuclear freeze movement reached Centre County it was partially thwarted by sewers.

In August, the Centre County Commissioners passed a resolution that urged the United States and the Soviet Union to freeze the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons. The proponents of a nuclear freeze, however, had proposed that the issue be put on a referendum in the Nov. 2 elections. The resolution, although showing the commissioners' concern about the nuclear buildup, does not hold as much weight as a ballot referendum would have. Such a referendum probably would have passed if it were placed on the ballot. Jeffrey M. Bower, chairman of the commissioners, said.

Why then did the commissioners refuse to place a referendum on the ballot? Because under state statute, most county commissioners are forbidden to place a referendum on the ballot unless it will directly affect their future actions. Therefore, under state law and some legal precedents, if the commissioners found they faced a problem with the sewers in Centre

County, they could place a referendum on the ballot asking voters about possible solutions. But if they find themselves facing a social issue that affects their constituents, they are powerless to initiate a referendum.

And because Centre County is not a home-rule county like Erie County or Philadelphia County, its commissioners are strictly limited in what actions they can take.

It seems rather ironic that duly elected government officials cannot ask voters' opinions on one of the most significant social issues of the decade.

Bower said he favors allowing commissioners the authority to decide if something should be made a referendum, but, he said, state officials have not taken such action on that in recent years — even though such a change has been proposed several times.

As a new Legislature comes into office after the elections, it should consider passing legislation that would allow counties to choose referendum issues. Because some social issues — like a nuclear freeze — might someday be more important than sewers.



the daily Collegian  
Monday, Sept. 27, 1982  
Phili Guitis Editor

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A little delay  
Kathleen A. Pavello's reader representative column, usually appearing on Monday, will appear tomorrow. The column will examine newspaper's news judgement and how it affects readers.

## reader opinion / the palestinian dilemma

### Pathetic attempt

If the circumstances hadn't been so serious, I might have been able to laugh off Professor Feuchtwang's pathetic attempt to justify Zionist/Israeli transigent attitudes toward the Palestinian people that are so troubling to a rapidly growing number of Americans concerned with recent Mid-East calamities. (I would have used "holocaust," but it's been taken.)

Last Wednesday evening was the time designated for an ecumenical memorial service for the recent massacre of Palestinians. Following the dignified candlelight gathering in front of Old Main, the solemn group of Americans and foreign students proceeded to Kern Graduate Building to view a film on Palestine.

There they were met by Feuchtwang and his little band of groupies who were scurrying around the lobby pushing handout sheets to passersby with the fanatical zeal of airport Moonies. I saw one irritated American girl brush past them saying, "This is not the time nor place for another Jewish pity-party. Do they need another Hitler to remind them when to back off? They're so blinded by hate that they don't even realize when they're wrong."

I replied that this certainly wasn't the time or place, but that the agitator was not representative of the Jews — that they belonged to a radical Zionist political faction. Feuchtwang is a professor in the physical science department, who, for many years, has been volitionally vocal on behalf of the Zionist viewpoint. But they do themselves and Judaism a disservice by furthering their bottled-up bigotry and hatred, and by follow-

ing sheep-like, a pitiful remnant of the terrorist Stern gang mentality that was responsible for many more massacres of Palestinians in previous years of the struggle for a land. This band of butchers was even an embarrassment to the Israeli government, as the Feuchtwang mentality should be an embarrassment to the Jewish community here.

As a professor of physics, you should be well aware of the natural laws of mass and saturation, and as a member of the human species, you should be even more aware of the consequential law of genocide.

If you wish to debate publicly, name the time and the place.

Larry Kassab, graduate-speech communications  
Sept. 23

### Step down

I have long been an admirer and supporter of the people of Israel; the way they stick together and hold to their beliefs in the face of overwhelming odds is something I wish I could see more often in this country. However, the invasion of Lebanon made me seriously question my feelings toward Israel.

I stuck to my feelings, though, because I realize that I do not have all the information that the leaders of Israel have to justify the attack and I also understand how our media and press can easily manipulate public opinion one way or another.

My admiration of Israel was suddenly shattered Wednesday night when NBC news showed the Israeli military command post in

the top floor of a high rise building in Beirut — directly overlooking one of the Palestinian camps where the massacre of innocent women and children took place. Nothing will ever convince me that the experienced senior Israeli military officers in that building did not know what was going on outside. I have rarely been so angered as I was at that scene. This has changed my opinion of Israel 180 degrees.

I would like to see our president and Congress immediately recall our ambassador from Israel and cease all weapons shipments to that country. It also disturbs me to see that Menachem Begin's coalition has defeated an inquiry motion in their Parliament. I believe that the time has come for us to stand up to the militant leaders of such a not resume normal relations with that country until Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon have stepped down.

Clifford C. Wilson, 10th-earth sciences  
Sept. 24

### Right to exist

I read with interest the letter printed in Thursday's Daily Collegian entitled Need for Action. The one-sided view of the Middle East conflict taken by the writer deserves a counterpoint, for a one-sided view of such a complex issue is too narrow a perspective.

It's true that the massacre by Lebanese Christians (not Israelis, as the writer implies) was a moral and political disgrace,

which ought to lead to Israel Defense Minister Sharon's resignation. Also, in hindsight, the occupation of west Beirut by Israel has proven to be a wrong move indeed. Israel has not been guiltless by a long shot.

However, Mr. Vilardo's comments only serve in highlighting these recent mistakes, and do not accurately represent the overall scope of current events and actual Israeli goals.

How can anyone actually believe that the Israeli people advocate the Palestinian killings after their own personal history of being the victims of such atrocities throughout World War II (which lasted years, not days). Such killings are senseless anywhere. Who remembers new stories within the past decade that read: "Bus hijacked in Israel, some shot; PLO claims responsibility?" Doesn't anybody remember Munich anymore? All anyone cares to see now is Yassir Arafat saying, "Look what they've done to our children."

Whereas Israeli citizens have expressed outrage and shame for their beloved country of late, I don't recall reading about Palestinian reprisals after their artillery blasted into northern Israeli settlements.

Does the world honestly believe that Israel condones, let alone participates in, murdering with reckless abandon? Is it not true that this same nation, rightfully or wrongfully, managed to destroy an Iraqi nuclear facility with just one on-ground casualty?

It is this sort of precision in which Israel takes pride, which led to the PLO strategy of making them look bad by hiding among

civilians and coaxing them to shell those positions during the invasion into Lebanon.

Mr. Vilardo also claims that Israel has no need to stay in southern Lebanon now that the PLO has withdrawn. Forgetting the 2,000 PLO remnant troops for a moment (which Mr. Vilardo conveniently did), there's a country called Syria that currently has troops in the Bekaa Valley, who are anti-Israel and who are just asking for a conflict with Israel (as if there weren't enough problems in Lebanon).

As for the reference to the Jewish lobby's influence in Washington: When it comes to international affairs of this magnitude I doubt that they exert too much influence on Reagan's policies at this particular time. The primary reason the United States backs Israel is they are the only pro-Western ally we've got down there.

Finally, there is no way that Israel will allow the Palestinians a homeland on the West Bank, a people whose officials are on record as vowing "to push Israel into the sea" and exuding anti-Semitism to the max. The Nazis almost succeeded in their aim, and as a lesson, Jews will never permit anybody a second chance.

To allow these people to share the land and Jerusalem would be foolish, just as naive a move as allowing the Lebanese Christians into the Palestinian camps. Fighting won't get the PLO anywhere against Israel and U.S. weaponry, diplomacy might. Simply recognizing Israel's right to exist would be a start.

David Glassman, 7th-history  
Sept. 23

## A different kind of battle rages at Penn State

By ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT JR.  
Associate Professor of History

Lebanon is not the only battlefield for the Arab-Israeli conflict; another is the campuses of America's colleges and universities. Ideally, the struggle for the minds of articulate young (or older) Americans should be fought with well-chosen words, posters, slides and movies. Sadly, it sometimes turns into a shouting contest, a scuffle or something worse. Anonymous threats are made by telephone. Posters are ripped down. Lectures are disrupted. Students are hindered in their progress to meetings, or in the distribution of their propaganda. This is happening on many of America's campuses. Has Happy Valley been spared? Sorry, it hasn't.

Many readers of The Daily Collegian may have been puzzled by accounts of local Arab-Jewish confrontations, angry letters and op-ed articles. Even though I may not be able to shine a beam of truth through the fog of propaganda, let alone to prescribe ways of stopping the supporters of the two sides from unfair or coercive tactics, my position as chairman of the Middle East Studies Committee demands that I take action.

The Middle East conflict is between two national movements that have arisen during the last century. One is called Zionism, the ideology stating that the Jews constitute a nation and that they must gather together to establish a Jewish state. In a sense, Zionism

achieved its goal when Israel was formed in 1948.

But because of on-going Arab opposition, Israel and its supporters have had to keep fighting to assure Israel's continued existence. Not all Jews are Zionists; some argue that Judaism is a religion, not the basis for an ideology. Some Christians are Zionists, owing to religious belief, a sincere desire to help the Jewish people, or an idea that Israel's existence serves their own political interests.

On the other side is Arab nationalism, the ideology that calls on all the Arabic-speaking peoples of the Middle East and North Africa to work together to assure their freedom from outside domination. In a sense, Arab nationalism achieved its goal as some twenty Arabic-speaking countries won their independence between 1918 and 1971.

### forum

But because Israel was set up in the former British mandate of Palestine, against the wishes of that country's Arab majority, Arab nationalists, too, must fight until the whole Arab homeland is free from foreign rule. The Palestinian Arabs, displaced during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, want to go back to Palestine and establish a sovereign Arab state in place of Israel. Recurrent wars in 1948-49, 1956, 1967, 1969-

70, 1973, and now 1982 have deepened the bitterness and the determination of both sides.

The United States' government recognized and supports the State of Israel, created as the result of a United Nations General Assembly decision in 1947 to partition what had been the British mandate of Palestine. It wants Israel's borders to be determined by negotiations with its Arab neighbors. Arab refugees willing to live at peace with their neighbors should be allowed by Israel to return to the homes and lands they left in 1948, or receive financial compensation.

The lands taken by Israel in the 1967 war (the West Bank of the Jordan, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip) should be restored to Arab sovereignty, as the Sinai has now reverted to Egypt under the 1978 Camp David treaty. Jerusalem should be internationalized. In practice, the State Department tilts more toward the Arab side, while Congress often favors the White House have favored Israel's interests.

Until recently, most Americans supported Israel and even its 15-year occupation of the Arab lands it took in 1967. But the current war in Lebanon, which has led to Israel's occupation of the southern half of the country and even Beirut, has shaken this support.

The massacres of the Lebanese and Palestinian civilians in the West Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila have aroused most Americans, whether elected officials or citizens. The murders were probably

committed by the Christian Lebanese, angered by the bombing of the Phalangist party headquarters and the consequent death of Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel. But Israeli troops had occupied west Beirut and were, at least, responsible to preserve order; yet some accounts say that they assisted the massacres. Today, American support for Israel is eroding.

Penn State, as one of the largest universities in the nation, cannot hide from this struggle. Almost 10 percent of its students are Jewish (not all, of course, are religiously observant); a smaller — but hardly insubstantial — proportion are Muslim. I would guess that several hundred come from Arab countries or are Arab-Americans. Many other students and faculty have strong ties with either Israel or the Arabs. They demand, and deserve, opportunities to voice their feelings.

Indeed, Penn State has organized groups to accommodate this need. Religiously observant Jews have the Hillel Foundation. Supporters of Israel, Gentile as well as Jewish, have Yachad as a Zionist student group. Faculty and staff may join the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East, seeking peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The Organization of Arab Students serves the needs of students coming from Arabic-speaking countries; it sometimes invites non-Arabs to attend seminars and other functions. The new Penn State Association for Palestine calls people's attention to the

## UNIVERSITY CALENDAR Monday, September 27

Drop deadline.  
Preregistration deadline for Winter Term.  
T.V. Quarterback, noon, Kern Lobby.  
Penn State Aikido Club, 6:30 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.  
College of Business Administration Undergraduate Student Council, committee chairman sign-ups, 7 p.m., Room 305 HUB.  
Lamb Fellowship meeting, 7 p.m., Room 302 Willard.  
Penn State Singers meeting, 7 p.m., Room 111 Chambers.  
Student Foundation for the Performing Arts meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 227 HUB.  
Students for Reproductive Rights meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 111 Sackett.

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