

Middle East Peace Talks Suffer Setback

The ping-pong game of death suffered another series of dangerous volleys in the troubled Palestinian-Israeli peace talks this week. The Gaza strip, formerly occupied by the Israelis and now under Palestinian rule, was the scene. An Israeli guard was killed, and several arrests followed. This has been going on for years and has increased lately due to the Peace agreements between the rivaling Semites.

Moderately Speaking
DAVID KANAAN

ister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat sat down to talk real peace.

What came about was a surprise to even the most moderate Arab or Jew. An actual compromise was reached giving the Palestinians eventual control of the occupied territories. Sure, my father's family was from Jaffa, and that remains part of Israel proper, and will never be Arab controlled again. But one has to make sacrifices for the good of the people at large.

What has happened recently is upsetting. The right-wing groups from both sides have started a battle to see how much violence and death can occur before the talks are called off, and fighting, their forte, can continue undisturbed. This relationship can be seen in many struggles in different areas of the world.

In the United States one can see this in the Civil Rights movement. The radical Nation of Islam (not to be confused with actual Islam, which doesn't promote segregation and hate) and the Ku Klux Klan are a good representation of this type of relationship.

It seems people listen to whoever is loudest and most sensational. This is often the two most radical groups that would never agree on anything and thrive on power, hate, and attention. This isn't always the fault of the people, but sometimes a modern, sensationalist reporter is blind to true courage.

This was the case in the Middle East until more level-headed leaders appeared like Hanan Ashwari, Rabin and others. These are the true heroes, not the gun-toting cowards of death.

When I asked my Dad what would be the most important advice one could give on this subject he didn't hesitate to answer. He cautioned both sides to not fall prey to radical scare tactics. He has seen too much hate over the years and it would be a pity to see the peace talks fail in such a manner. So much has been done, so many compromises reached. Specifically he urged the Israelis to stop building colonies in the occupied territories, and the Arabs have to understand that Israel will not vanish and should exist. Lastly, both sides must teach the people the real facts, educate the children with true religious values and wisdom, not an artificial

hate-induced version that inspires fear and blind emotion. This bastardization of Islam, and other religions is all too common in the World.

The problem is getting worse and again the two sides are looking to Washington for answers. Arafat must control the new Arab lands. Israel cannot elect another right-wing leader like former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who noticeably hated the idea of any dialogue with Arabs.

The world should embrace and protect the enlightened leaders who are slowly being scared away from peace. We need to show them that the world supports reason and compromise, not hate and stubbornness.

To Rabin, Ashwari, Faisal Hussieni, and others I say keep your chins up. You are the true champions of courage, and deserve respect and admiration. Nothing easy is ever worthwhile.

—David Kanaan is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

O.J. Hiding From the Fact That He's Black

First of all, I think O.J. Simpson is guilty. That is, I think he killed his wife, Nicole, and Ron Goldman. I don't know anyone who has paid attention to the case who disagrees with me.

Guest Commentary
JEFFREY HART

refusing to convict out of racial solidarity. He would have been saved by his blackness. Newsweek calls the trial the "most widely watched murder trial in American history."

Well, not many people could watch the New Jersey trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh baby in New Jersey.

But that trial was also a huge media event, with much of America following it on the radio and in newspapers. It was as big as the O.J. trial.

Charles Lindbergh was a much bigger star even than Simpson. He may have been the most admired man in the nation. Like Simpson, he was about as handsome as you can get. The dark crime against

Lindbergh was felt to be a crime against America.

And, ye gods, the defendant was German! The prosecution called him "Bruno" as often as possible. His wife and all his friends called him "Richard," but "Bruno" sounded un-American. The United States had recently finished fighting the Kaiser, and Hitler was emerging. The trial was almost Lindbergh vs. Hitler. Hauptmann went to the elec-

The prosecution will have the daunting task of overcoming O.J.'s attractive public image. If the jury firmly believes in the image, it will have a hard time reconciling it with violent crime.

That race is pushing its way into the trial is ironic. O.J. deliberately did not present himself to us as black.

His appeal to the public absolutely transcended race.

My theory if his motivation as a killer is rooted in race. I think he killed his wife when she was slipping out of his control and having sex with other men. Perhaps he thought that she looked down on him because she was white and he black.

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Perhaps he thought that she looked down on him because she was white and he black. His rage had a sexual character, but it might have had a racial basis as well.

It would be a horrible irony if, after his long flight from blackness, what he was fleeing caught up with him and led to the killings.

It would be another irony if the blackness produced a hung jury, one or more black jurors

O.J. Simpson's home
Floor plan of the property located at 360 N. Rockingham Ave.

Automobiles
1 O.J. Simpson's Ford Bronco
2 Al Cowling's Bronco

Possible evidence found
3 Bloody glove
4 Red stains found outside
5 Red stains found inside*
6 Airline ticket receipt
7 Baggage tag
8 Blue plastic bag
9 Wooden stick

* Red stains and a pair of navy blue socks found inside the second floor master bedroom not shown

Jurors in the Simpson case made a visit to the ex-athlete's estate this week. The site is crucial to the prosecution's case because of evidence found within its walls. The trial continues today before breaking for the Presidents day holiday weekend.

tric chair protesting his innocence.

On that last point, I think Hauptmann really meant some-

thing like, "I didn't mean to kill the baby." The baby probably died in a fall from the kidnap ladder. But his death occurred in

the midst of a heinous felony, and Hauptmann deserved the juice—bad pun intended.

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Letters to the Editor

Library Criticism Unfounded

To the Editor:

Every statement in your lead editorial of Feb. 9, "Changes at Library Done Without Students in Mind," is false. Over the last three years, the library faculty has systematically spoken to students and faculty about their use of the library. We have asked our users what problems they encountered in the library and what critical needs they see in the current build-

ing and in new Lied Library.

One critical problem has been the difficulty students and other users have had in finding their way to the reference desk and other service points. The move of the reference department does not create additional staffspace. It is not designed to do so.

It is planned to correct a serious 13-year old design flaw and to put a crucial service point where it is supposed to be. Your statement "the renovations eliminated a very popular study spot for many students at this university," is simply not true. Careful user counts, at different times of the day, over a period of months, showed us that use rare-

ly exceeded 25 percent of the available seating, even during peak periods.

Your editorial fails to mention several other renovations which were designed to enhance the library experience for our students (Editors note: Rebel Yell staff reporter O.G Kennedy did report on all of the current changes at the library in the Jan. 26 issue. See "Changing the Face of the Library," Jan. 26 issue of The Rebel Yell.). When the Student Development Center moved to new quarters, their vacated area was renovated into an expanding computer lab and Faculty Development Center. By doing this, we were able to expand the

heavily used non-book collection and user areas to accommodate more of our collections and additional user stations.

You also fail to mention that we have almost run out of shelving space. For years we have been forced to add additional shelving to house the books and periodicals.

Recently we have to had to reduce student seating to do this. We have no real options. Now, with the seating below 1,100, we are faced with a triage situation; do we further compress our seating capacity? Do we pay for a warehouse to store new materi-

als or sweep older materials from the shelves until the new library is constructed?

No one on the staff of The Rebel Yell contacted me or anyone else in library management to discuss this, or any other matter, for several months. I respectfully suggest that, before you charge full bore into an aggressive editorial position, you call, drop by or make an appointment to discuss the happenings at the library.

Matthew Simon
Dean of University Libraries