

# Barney Glazer's "HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE"

Frequently, I revise a column; seldom, do I kill one in entirety.

I just did. I tore it up in self-deprecation.

It was an Arabian-Israeli chronicle of jokes that I had collected from columnists, comedy writers and comedians. At the time, they struck me as being very funny. In their rereading, they sounded sick.

Tragically, we Jews are at fault by writing and telling these jokes in the flush of Israel's victory. Some of my best Jewish friends had the bad taste to use similar laugh provokers during the Hollywood Bowl benefit for raising funds for Israel.

Comics keep adding daily to the stockpile.

This is a case of acting in victory as we never would have acted in defeat or adversity. We never told funny stories about the extermination centers in Poland, the wearing of the yellow Star of David, Auschwitz, or other inconceivable Nazi crimes against humanity.

There is a time and place for everything, including Israeli-Arabian humor. For example, during the period of non-hostilities, Danny Thomas stood on the stage of the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, and affectionately patted a Jewish comedian on the cheek.

"You saw it, folks!" howled the comic, simulating injury. "An Arab hit a Jew!" Curious about the complete absence of Danny Thomas' name in the press during the Mid-East warfare, I set out to locate the popular star.

Danny fitted the upheaval perfectly. He is an American, having won his U.S. citizenship by birth in Deerfield, Michigan. He is proud of his Lebanese extraction. His social and business life in Hollywood has been caught up with dozens of Jewish intimates.

Convalescing from an injured right knee, Danny was unable to come to the phone. I asked an associate how the star felt about finding himself squarely in the middle of his allegiance to his country, his heritage and his friends.

"Danny isn't the kind of man who rooted for either side to win where loss of life was involved," said the associate. "Even before war broke out, he was one of the first to pray for peace."

The spokesman said that a reporter for a leading national magazine had phoned the comedian and asked for some jokes about the Mid-East conflict. Stunned, Danny shot back, "I find your suggestion highly repulsive."

Actually, he didn't say it that politely. It was one of those rare occasions when a Danny Thomas quotation

was thoroughly unfit for publication.

Later, Danny put it pointedly when he said, "Jokes about war and disaster are in the worst possible taste. Did anyone tell jokes about Pearl Harbor? Are we laughing it up about Viet Nam?"

Meanwhile, back in Hollywood, the comedian stands alone as convincing proof that the Arab and Jew are ready, willing and able to work and live together harmoniously.

To achieve that end, many Jews in Hollywood remain in full agreement that we should enjoy, never flaunt, the fruits of victory.

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