

Victim to victimizer

BY NAOMI KLEIN
Varsity Staff

There is name for Jews like me. I am called a "self hating Jew." You see, Jews are not allowed to dislike other Jews, to disapprove of mainstream diaspora opinions, or to criticize Israeli policy in anything other than a strictly Jewish forum, without being accused of self hatred.

Why all the guilt? Because a Jewish education is an education of fear. From early primary school we are taught that Jews have always been persecuted and hated; that Israel exists for a reason: because nobody else would take us, because they will come again. The climax came in the fifth grade on a class outing to a Holocaust exhibit. These are photographs of gas chambers, these are lampshades made of Jewish skin, this is you.

However, it is not the non-Jews I fear. When I

speaking out on issues of misogyny in Israeli culture -- of Israeli soldiers' brutality towards Palestinian women, of the escalating incidents of battery and rape of Israeli women by Israeli men, of the abusive treatment of women who dare to protest the occupation, and of the servile attitude of the diaspora, it is only other Jews who come after me, as they have been known to condemn the many voices of dissent in our community. I am asked to believe that this country which silences me is going to save me. On the contrary, I wish to be saved from Israel.

Jews made the shift from victims to victimizers with terrifying ease. Military service is compulsory in Israel. It is the backbone of the Israeli economy. Although women are also drafted, they are mainly channeled into secretarial jobs. Every Israeli man from the age of 18 to 21 serves in the army. They are taught the siege mentality and to hate Arabs. This continued on page 6

A Palestine History

BY MARK MARSHALL

"Palestine" in this article will refer to the geographical area covered by what is now Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. It is also known as "Mandatory Palestine" because it was ruled by Britain from 1918 to 1948 under a "mandate" from the League of Nations.

This area is the historical homeland of the Palestinian people, but the policy of their political representative, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), is to seek a peaceful compromise solution with Israel based on the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the Palestinian lands occupied by Israel since 1967, that is, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Zionism" refers to the ideology of the State of Israel, according to which Palestine is considered the homeland of the Jewish people and Jews from all over the world should go there

to colonize the land. "Occupied territories" here means the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestine ceased to exist as a political entity on May 14, 1948, when the last of Britain's colonial troops left the country and the Jewish community, under Zionist leader David Ben Gurion, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel.

The Zionists claimed international legitimacy for their new state based on the fact that the United Nations General Assembly had passed a legally non-binding resolution on November 29, 1947, calling for the partition of Palestine between the Jewish community, most of whom were immigrants from Europe, and the indigenous Arab population.

Under the UN Partition Plan, the Jews, at the time making up only 32 per cent of the population, would receive 55 per cent of the land area of Palestine, and the Arab majority continued on page 6

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letters to the varsity

Varsity Letters Policy

The Varsity accepts letters from all members of the university community. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and signed. A daytime phone number must be included for verification.

Letters must be received no later than three days prior to publication. Letters longer than two hundred words may be edited for length with the consent of the author.

The Varsity will publish as many letters as space allows; however, letters which are libellous, or attempt to incite hatred or violence towards individuals or identifiable groups -- including women, lesbians and gays, ethnic and religious groups, and people with a disability -- will not be published.

whose social awareness is presumably less cosmopolitan than its own. I don't think it has that right, nor should anyone who has any faith in the right to free speech. After all, isn't it our dear old excitable Varsity that promises in its masthead it "will no publish material attempting to incite violence or hatred towards particular individuals"?

Tim Prior
St. Mike's IV

Distortion

Mr. Currie, I thank you for your letter (November 13). I could not have given a better example of distortion and misinformation. You

environmentalists blockading a road in B.C., people engaged in sit-ins, and mostly various groups walking around with placards, signs, slogans and chants. I myself have participated in demonstrations for the freedom of Soviet Jewry; no rocks; no knives, no molotov cocktails, nobody injured, nobody murdered. The world was justifiably outraged at Saddam Hussein's abuse of the word "guests" but he was only exercising the very same freedom of speech that the media enjoy; the freedom to lie, to distort, to deceive. For Palestinian murderers to enjoy the same title of "demonstrators" as those who stood and fell in Tiananmen Square, is both insulting and deceptive.

Praise

Karen Gordon deserves praise for her insight concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict (November 19). She effectively demonstrates that it is possible to be both well-informed and rational in dealing with an issue so often obscured by propaganda and heated emotions.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares Ms. Gordon's objectivity. Others spend their time searching for ways in which to criticize Israel for defending her citizens, while ignoring the acts of those seeking her destruction. In one letter (November 19), Mona Steitieh alleges that the Palestinian attack on Jewish worshippers at the Temple

rioters were then rushed to hospitals (*New York Times*, *Time*), and that the losses of life occurred during a riot in which Palestinian mobs "barraged the police with stones and other life-endangering objects" (*Zamir, Newsweek*). In all fairness, a cease fire call should apply to rock-throwers as well as police.

Like Eddie Halabi and other anti-Israel writers, Ms. Steitieh criticizes Israel for the deaths of Palestinian rioters, but fails to criticize those Palestinians who throw rocks at innocent civilians or murder other Palestinians -- suspected of "collaboration", political rivalry, moderation, etc.. While I agree that "the death of a person, that being a Jewish life or an Arab life is clearly

French

I refer to the letter from Seyed Jaffar (November 8). The implication given in this letter is that

19) made for some interesting reading. Most interesting was the appearance of *The Varsity's* editors in that letter. What's with this "(sic)" business? Or need I ask? For those

What Israel has become Racism and misogyny at the core of its being

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hated makes these lost years meaningful.

These young men, who begin to feel their own strength and the strength of their country with a machine gun in their hand, are reported to go into Arab villages and gratuitously scatter garbage and broken glass for Palestinian women to pick up with their bare hands. This is above and beyond the sanctioned bulldozing of Palestinian homes, the closing of their schools, and the shooting of their children. After all, Israelis are stronger: they have guns, Israeli men reach maturity by brutalizing and degrading Palestinians, particularly Palestinian women.

The effect the violence in the Israeli male's life has on Israeli women is worsening. As the brutality of the Intifada escalates, so does the brutality in Israeli homes and reports of rape. In the army, brute force rules and it appears to be crushing Israeli women.

By far the most disturbing development in Israeli men's misogyny towards Israeli women is something known to Israeli women as "Holocaust pornography" where images of emaciated women near ovens, shower heads, cattle cars, and the like are used to sell clothing and other products. "Jewish women are sexualized as Holocaust victims for Israeli men to masturbate over... the themes are fire, gas, trains, emaciation, and death," writes Andrea Dworkin in the October 1990 *Ms. Magazine*.

A woman walking alone in Jerusalem has the freedom to choose which type of harassment she will endure depending on which part of town she is in. On one side, she can expect verbal and possible physical sexual assault from Israeli men who believe that a woman alone is asking to be raped. On another side, in the orthodox districts of the city, she can expect to be stoned by Israeli men for showing a little too much skin. But that's not violence -- that's religion. And when a ten year old Palestinian boy throws a rock at an Israeli soldier because he has robbed him of his freedom, he gets shot. But that's politics, not religion.

Women's concerns about rape and brutality are considered trivial when men are busy worrying about death and war. But, in Israel, the feminist and the peace movements are closely connected. There is an organization in Israel called Women in Black. They are women in mourning until the end of the occupation. Every Friday afternoon, groups of Israeli women dressed in black stand vigil at busy intersections all over the city, holding signs which read "End the Occupation" in English, Arabic, and Hebrew. They too are stoned -- for political and religious reasons. Passing cars throw fruit and insults: calling them "traitors" and to "go fuck an Arab." Since the increased tension in the

Gulf, conditions have deteriorated. Last month, right-wing Israeli protesters came to a vigil with sticks and beat the Women in Black, calling them "Hussein's whores."

There are dialogue groups of Palestinian and Israeli women that organize conferences and teach-ins on the Intifada. In Tel Aviv, a group called "Yesh Svul" (there's a limit) protests near the Women in Black. They are a small group of

Replacing Arab population with Jewish one

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would receive the rest. Jerusalem was to be an international zone.

As soon as the State of Israel was founded, the rival Arab kingdoms of Transjordan (now Jordan) and Egypt, though poorly prepared for war and having fewer troops than the well-trained Israeli army, moved to occupy the parts of Palestine that had been allotted to the "Arab state" under the Partition Plan.

Each was acting to prevent any strategic advantage from accruing to the other through occupation of the UN-delimited Arab zone of Palestine. Israel took this as a cause for war and went on the offensive, expanding well beyond the UN partition lines and driving some 700,000 Arabs out of their homes, thereby ensuring a large Jewish majority in the new Jewish state.

The Israeli government moved quickly to destroy the evacuated Arab villages and build Jewish settlements in their places wherever possible. By 1949, the State of Israel controlled all of Palestine except for the West Bank and Gaza strip.

In the spring of 1967, after a series of skirmishes on the Israel-Syria border, president Gamal Abdel-nasser of Egypt foolishly provided Israel with another cause for war by blocking the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, and ordering the removal of a UN observer force from Sinai, on Egypt's border with Israel.

The Arab states were yet again unprepared for war, and Israel attacked on June 5, 1967, easily defeating the armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, driving out some 200,000 more Palestinians in the process. The Zionist movement had now achieved its long standing goal of controlling all of Palestine.

Israel had been planning the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for several years, so it was able to consolidate its control very quickly. East Jerusalem and a large rural area around it was (illegally) annexed to Israel, and an entire Arab neighborhood, the Maghribi Quarter, was demolished in order to create a large plaza for tourists and Jewish worshippers

soldiers on reserve who are refusing to serve in the occupied territories.

There are Jews in Israel who are working against hatred.

As for me, I know that I, like many others outside of the mainstream diaspora, am a Jew against racism and sexism. Some time ago I might have said that I am a Zionist against what Zionism has become in Israel. But for now, I am

in front of the Western Wall in East Jerusalem. The process of surrounding the city with a chain of fortress-like Jewish settlements was begun and continues to this day. The East Jerusalem area is now the most colonized part of the West Bank.

The colonization process has also proceeded in the West Bank -- not including East Jerusalem -- 50 to 60 per cent of the land has been set aside for the exclusive use of the Israeli army and about 60,000 Jewish settlers.

The Palestinian population of about one million has been restricted to the remaining 40 per cent. In the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas on earth, 40 per cent of the land has been set aside for about 3,000 Jewish settlers. Population density for Jews in the Gaza Strip is thus 14 per square kilometer, while for Arabs it is 2623 per square kilometer, according to Dr. Israel Shahak of Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Water is a rare and precious commodity in the Middle East. Palestinian farmers in the occupied

a Jew against Israel -- just as Israel repeatedly proves itself to be against me.

So, my profile is not about one country but, unfortunately, about two. So long as Israel continues to usurp Palestine, it will be a country with racism and misogyny at the core of its being. Until this brutality ends, Israel is a country with blood on its hands and on its profile.

territories have been forbidden since 1967 to drill any new irrigation wells, while Israeli settlements use about 20 per cent of the territory's water for less than 10 per cent of its population. The West Bank's water resources are controlled exclusively by Israel's national water company, Mekorot. According to Dr. Shahak, the Arab population of the territory has been allocated only about 17 per cent of the water, the remainder being piped to Jewish settlements and to Israel.

This pressure on Palestinian land and water resources, combined with harsh restrictions on Palestinian industry, education, and political expression, constitutes a deliberate process of gradual population exchange. Israel's long term goal is to replace the Arab population of the occupied territories with a Jewish one; either by removing the Arabs or by marginalizing them demographically through large scale Jewish colonization -- perhaps with Soviet Jews who have been denied permission to emigrate to their destination of choice, America.

Put the past aside Must focus on the present

BY AHMED ABDOLELL

History has been cruel to both Palestinians and Jews. These two people's fates and fortunes have become intimately linked. It is unfortunate that the upturn in the fortunes of the Jews has been at the expense of the Palestinians. Furthermore, we must admit that mistakes and atrocities have been committed by those on both sides.

But, however difficult it may seem, all sides in the conflict

must put aside the past and talk time, the dreams and aspirations about the realities of the present for an entire generation of and hopes for the future. young Palestinians in the Occupied Territories have been frustrated.

Two years ago, the frustrations of this generation of 21 years of Israeli occupation and world betrayal finally exploded into the Intifada: a desperate cry for human rights, for equality, for freedom, and for help!

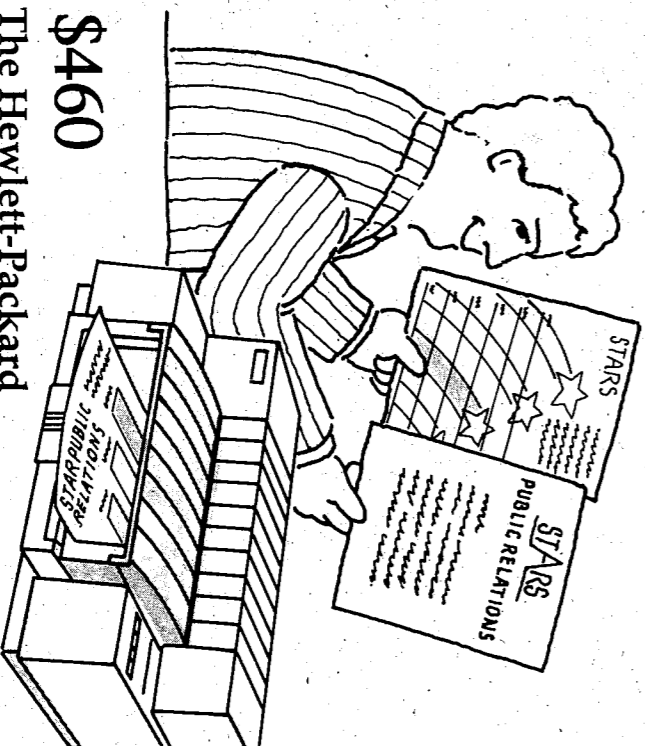
These are issues that we in Canada take for granted, and these are the issues that are consistently ignored and hidden behind the volatile politics of the region. But these are the real issues that we must never lose sight of. Human rights and equality cannot be allowed to be an exclusive right for some people and not for others if we are truly seeking peace.

There has been enough suffering on both sides and it is time we all sat down to discuss these issues in an atmosphere of respect for the universality of human rights. During this

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