

Middle East

Unforgivable acts of terrorism have been committed by all parties

The Shiite Moslem captors holding U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins said they executed him Monday.

The execution came because Israeli commandos kidnapped Shiite clergyman Sheik Abdul Karim Obeid. This action was an act of criminal terrorism against all Palestinians.

According to an article by the Associated Press, Obeid is alleged to be the spiritual leader of the Shiite Moslem Hezbollah militia in south Lebanon and to have played a role in Higgins' abduction.

The kidnapping and execution of an American citizen is also an act of terrorism. Neither side of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict have clean hands. At the same time, the United States government is also guilty of its own set of mistakes against the Palestinian people.

The U.S. is not solely responsible for the intricate web of conflict in the Middle East. The conflict there is centuries old. Nor can anyone fully understand the complexities involved in the all out war that continues in the region.

The one thing the U.S. government is responsible for is its flawed foreign policy decisions based on very narrow interpretations for the region.

The Reagan administration saw the region as vital to our interest and in need of protection from the Soviet threat. He gave very little credence to the fact that the problems in the Middle East are very regional in nature and have nothing to do with so called Communist encroachment into the region.

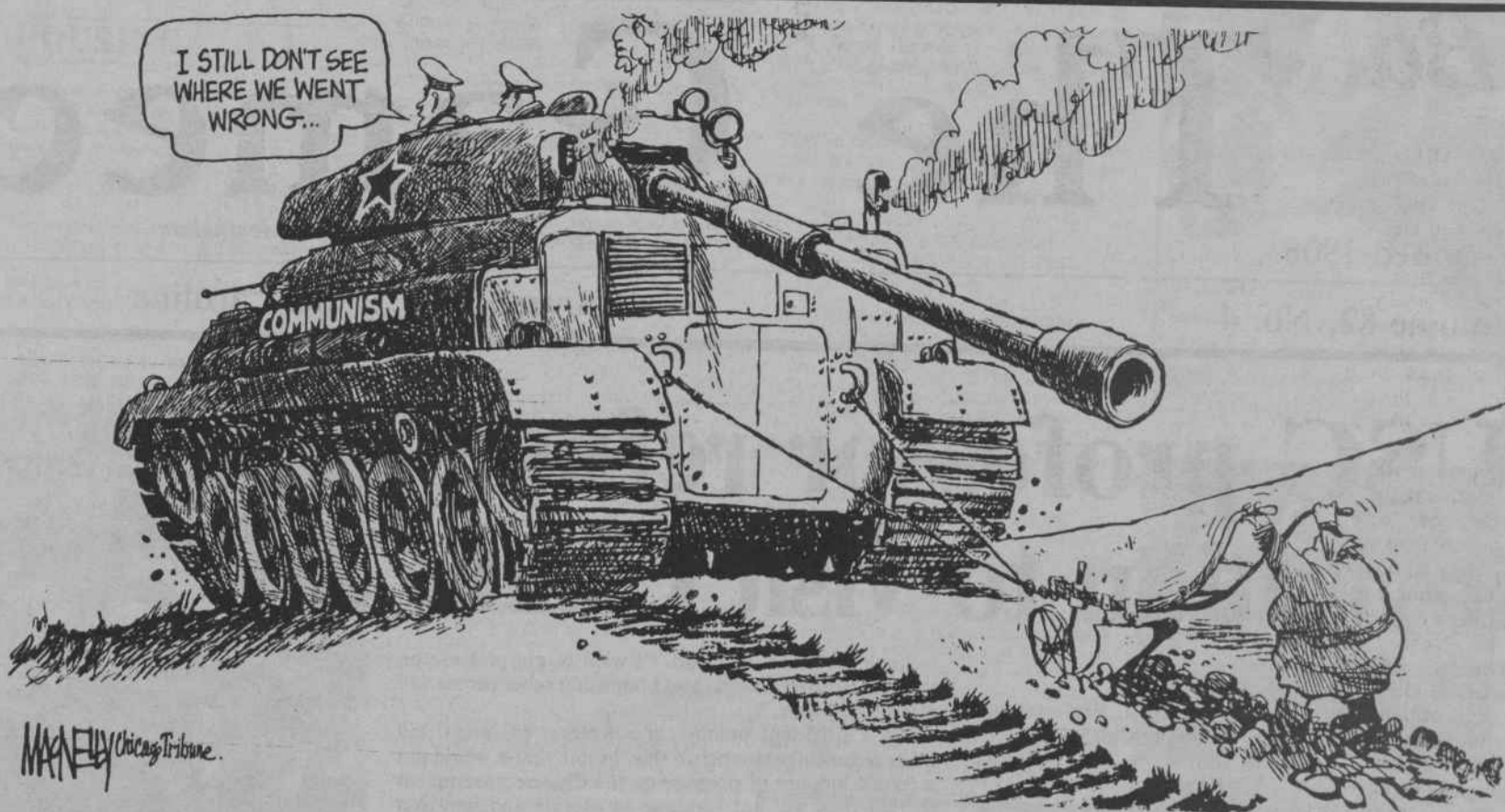
Because of this flawed assumption, the U.S. has made some terrible foreign policy blunders such as keeping Marines sent as part of a United Nations peace keeping force in Beirut without definite goals of foreign policy and siding with a minority group in a very complex and dangerous war. This decision led to tragedy when hundreds of soldiers lost their lives and to the subsequent bombing by an American gunboat into the hills of Beirut, intensifying hatred among Moslem factions for the American government.

The present administration under President George Bush should recognize where Reagan went wrong. They should also condemn the Israeli government for their terrorist act of taking the Shiite Moslem clergyman hostage.

At the same time the U.S. should not become more deeply involved in a fight that is centuries old. The U.S. cannot control events in the Middle East, and there are no good guys in this war. All factions are guilty of hatred and terrorism.

The Bush government should recognize this and form a policy that does not appear to support one faction over the other. Diplomatic tools such as sanctions and peace conferences should also be used by the Bush administration to encourage peace and understanding in the area.

It is a tragedy that Col. Higgins may have lost his life in the line of duty. If the U.S. can redirect policy in such a way that the U.S. doesn't look like the Great Satan to the Moslem factions, then maybe other American hostages can be saved.



Mackey Chicago Tribune

Extinction of sea turtles will last forever

The shrimper's boat hauls in the nets that have been dragged along for miles. An innocent victim is also captured in the net, a beautiful and rare Kemp's Ridley turtle that has drowned. The workers throw it back in dead along with other sea life that is caught in the nets for a few pounds of shrimp.

This ecological tragedy occurs more than 11,000 times every year, studies show. Other studies have estimated the yearly death toll is much higher. Shrimpers disclaim responsibility for the deaths of these almost extinct turtles.

A solution has been found to save the lives of the turtles so thousands will not have to die every year. One model of the solution was engineered by scientists at the University of Georgia. USC's Coastal campus has also worked in the development of a solution to the problem.

The solution is called a TED or a turtle excluder device. TEDs are cages that will capture a turtle if it wanders into the net and expel it. The turtle is saved from the horrors of drowning.

It is a very humane solution and has been thoroughly tested by the National Marine Fishery Service.

But shrimpers have protested the federal regulations requiring that TEDs be installed in the nets. Hundreds of shrimpers blocked ship channels along the Texas Gulf coast and threatened violence if regulations were not changed or reversed during the weekend of July 22-23.

The shrimpers claimed that the expense of installing and maintaining the TEDs will seriously



Mary Pearson

hurt their profit, and the industry as a whole, costing jobs.

The shrimpers look like they may have won for now. On July 24, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher temporarily suspended regulations requiring shrimpers to use the TEDs.

Mosbacher said the enforcement of the turtle excluder regulations would be suspended for 45 days. At the end of that period, shrimpers would be required to pull their nets every 90 minutes but would not have to use turtle excluders.

The rationale behind this change is that turtles can live for 90 minutes underwater if trapped in a net. Will the U.S. Coast Guard be able to enforce this regulation with huge budget cuts and large sums of money being redirected to fight the drug trade? That is very unlikely, and why all the fuss about a little sea turtle?

This move was a cop-out to the shrimping in-

dustry. Their claims of serious injury to the industry because of the requirements are exaggerated. The shrimpers are just being too stiff necked to bend to necessary change.

The actual cost of installing and maintenance would only impact about 1 to 2 percent of all operating costs, said Richard Moore, USC Coastal Assistant Vice Chancellor for Grants and Research.

He added the National Marine Fishery Service has conducted many tests on the TEDs. If used properly, TEDs are 95 percent effective at not catching sea turtles and 98 percent effective in catching shrimp. The maintenance of the cages is also relatively inexpensive because as nets wear out the TEDs can be removed and placed on new nets.

Moore said the use of TEDs also has other benefits because if they are used properly clogging of the nets by garbage and other sea life such as fish and jelly fish can almost be eliminated.

The problem is that most shrimpers are very resistant to learning how to use the TEDs properly; therefore, the amount of shrimp hauled is lower, he said.

But should a species as innocent and beautiful as the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle be eradicated from existence in part because of the stubbornness of the shrimping industry?

I am joining the nationwide boycott of shrimp until the shrimp industry comes around and recognizes the importance of the sea turtle to our world. I don't want to see the extinction of sea turtles because extinction is forever.

Congress members should not be art critics

A friend of mine, who has asked that her name not be given, has requested that I use this space to make a public apology for her.

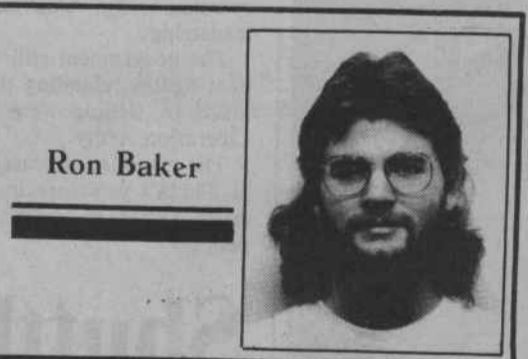
My friend is an artist. She is also a Tibetan Buddhist and a lesbian; but she is not apologizing for any of that, of course. My friend is a communist, however, and that has created quite a mess of her career.

It seems that a local museum, quite obviously out of its mind at the time, recently displayed a painting of hers called "Skyscape With Star." The work depicts a range of purple misty mountains, a bald eagle gliding above them in the foreground, and a star.

But not just any ol' star. My friend's star was a Giant Red Star, superimposed over the whole scene, with a barely-noticeable hammer and sickle right in its center.

One day, not too long ago, the Esteemed Senator Sal Frytious was touring the art museum, admiring a lovely display of crucifixion scenes and whistling a tune called "Some Day Dem Ol' Profits Gonna Trickle Down." Then he turned around and was shocked to find my friend's painting hanging there beside a large white canvas with a trickle of purple paint down its center.

Enraged at this affront to the political ideals of his nation, and shocked to learn that the exhibit had been partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, he immediately flew into a rage and launched an immediate campaign to have such



Ron Baker

"filth" banned from exhibits sponsored by taxpayers' money.

Sal's campaign was successful, and my friend has now resigned herself to painting World War II battle scenes and depictions of Mount Rushmore. "I'm very sorry it went this far," my friend told me. "I wasn't trying to tell the government what it should support. I had no idea that being a communist could do this to my art."

But I suspect my friend has it all wrong. I would guess that Sen. Frytious simply has a dislike for Tibetan Buddhists.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., called for and got approval on a law which forbids the use of federal funds to "promote, disseminate or produce

obscene or indecent materials ... or material which denegrates the objects or beliefs of the adherents of a particular religion or non-religion."

Helms was enraged by an exhibit partially sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts which featured homoerotic photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe and a picture of a plastic crucifix dipped in urine taken by artist Andres Serrano.

Gosh, I see his point. But Helms' amendment, tacked on to the Interior Department appropriations bill after a voice vote, offers to let the U.S. Congress tell us all what is and what isn't art.

The NEA must now bow to the pressure of a group of "representatives" who are not all that sure what is and what isn't a budget.

My questions are many, but here are some of them: What is the official definition of "obscene," "indecent," and "denigration"? Or "non-religion" for that matter?

Tom Wicker of the *New York Times* points out that the "non-religion" classification protects Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members, and could forbid anti-communist art.

Of course, you can still attack any and all of these things in your art. You just can't have the works displayed in an NEA-sponsored exhibit.

So I recommended to my friend that she repaint her work described above, without the star, hammer and sickle. She told me to go to hell.

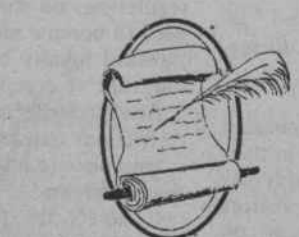


The Gamecock

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Letters to the editor

Garage rates should not double

To the editor:
After reading the July 12 article about the proposed doubling of parking garage rates, I agree with Student Government President Marie-Louise Ramsdale's disapproval of the increase. I could only support a gradual increase in parking rates over several semesters than a 100 percent increase between the fall and spring semesters.

If the proposed increase is approved, then would students note a drastic change in the safety in the garages in the spring? Probably not. I would not think that USC students would feel twice as safe walking from their cars in the garage at night or any other time of day.

Why would USC dream of comparing its parking garages to the ones downtown operated by the city? USC officials must remember who each garage serves. USC garages do not serve downtown workers, and city garages are not located close enough

to USC, especially its residence halls, to merit students parking in them. City garages serve state officials, city officials, bankers, and other executives who are working and earning money while their cars are in the garages.

USC garages simply serve students who are simply trying to obtain an affordable education.

However, even if USC must double its parking garage rates, the university would demonstrate poor timing especially in the case of students living on campus where the garages offer the closest, safest area to park.

The news of the proposed increase should have been released to students before they made their housing selections for the year based on the expected price to park in a USC garage.

USC should only have rate increases at the beginning of each academic year so students can plan their living accommodations with expected costs known.

But, I believe USC is severely overrating the privilege of parking in one of its garages.

Robert Thomas
Broadcasting junior

Reader mourns hostage's death

So then burn the flag! Burn the flag for Lt. Col. William Higgins hanging from a gallows in Lebanon. Burn it for his wife and his mother.

The new "kinder, gentler" government has said it's OK to take the most honored symbol of this country and set it aflame while nine United States citizens still rot in Lebanese captivity, living (?) with the knowledge that they could die at any time. Just like Col. Higgins.

President George Bush has expressed his outrage at this "terrorist" act. That, my friends, rings all too familiar. Reagan sat smiling from his podium pontificating on the terror in terrorism and the values of a strong defense. But a stealth bomber couldn't help William Higgins and

neither would burning a flag. If you don't like what this country is doing you are free, unlike the people in Lebanon, to leave or to work to change things.

That's what happened in the '60s. The "hippies" weren't all anti-American, but rather anti-government. They didn't agree with policy so they worked to get it changed.

But our protest has become split: the lethargic "armchair rebel," pointing his finger at the television set and says "somebody should do something about that;" and the extremist who seems ready to give up on the whole system, attacking the country rather than the people in charge.

Well, anyway, Col. Higgins is dead, and we're too late to help him. My condolences to his wife and family. I'm sorry we couldn't or didn't help more.

Burn the flag! And sprinkle the ashes for William Higgins and his 18 months in captivity which ended today. God rest his soul.

Dan Popovitch
Journalism senior