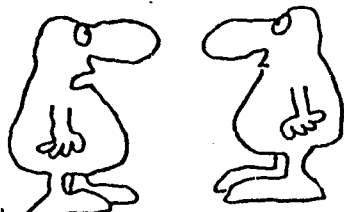


FREE FOR ALL

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

I'M DAZZLED BY THE
ILLOGICAL LOGIC OF
YOUR ARGUMENT



By Mal

Such Fancy Talk

Well, gol-durn! That shure were a real inter-restin' piece in yure fine paper 'bout that there Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation! All them fancy-talkin' people jaw-bonin' 'bout them land-preservayshun districts and that there polly-tishen dippin' his hongry snout into that there trough fer all ter see!

Y'even intyveded an honest-ter-god farmer! I bet his buddies down at the feed mill will be just tickled silly when they find out that Mr. Hardesty is just plain folks like us'ns. I shure am glad yure paper told us that Mr. Hardesty says "gonna" and that he gets his words a little messed up when he talks to a smooth-talkin' ree-porter. I just know that ree-porter'd never do that!

The next time The Post records the words of "an Anne Arundel County farmer," try not to have him sound like a boob. He just might be a reader of The Post, he probably manages a business more complex than The Post's Metro desk, and he most certainly is deserving of The Post's editorial respect.

Shucks.

—Hugh B. Silcox

Expletives Deleted, But . . .

The unthinkable, unspeakable, has finally happened. In an otherwise superb article—"You Cry in Private, Not Into the Lens," Outlook, July 11—gutter-type, filthy language is carefully deleted ("P—ed, f—, etc.), but God's name is taken in vain, and this blasphemy is printed in full. What a sad, sad commentary on the world in which we live.

For shame!

—Betty and John Christensen

The Name-Drop Test

James Schlesinger's op-ed piece ["Very Inscrutable, These Occidentals," op-ed, July 9] is an example of The Post's name-drop test as to who gets printed. The item is banal, sophomoric and jejune: what matters is that the writer "held Cabinet positions in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations."

Damn the torpor, full snob ahead!

—Joseph Crowley

Confusing Headlines

I am a 12-year-old student from Arundel Middle School in Odenton. I read newspapers daily. I was rather confused when I compared The Post's headline ("Israel Approves of Most of U.S. Plan for PLO Pull-out") with a leading Baltimore paper's headline ("Israel Rejects U.S. Plan on PLO Removal"). What are we as American people supposed to believe?

—Michael Eric March

Running Out of Patience

As a member of the Washington Running Club and the D.C. Road Runners, I wish to express my bitter disappointment in The Post's lack of coverage of area races. When someone is trying to find news about area races and running, all he finds are skimpy race results, a lack of good solid articles and a lack of decent coverage of the races.

I have always thought that a newspaper should serve all aspects of a community. The Post however has sadly neglected us. The recent Pepsi challenge race was one of the best examples of The Post's negligence. There were 4,000 finishers in that race; The Post only mentioned the top 10.

Right now the D.C. Road Runners are in financial trouble. They give people a chance to get themselves physically fit through running and competition. They do this unselfishly and have been a real help to a lot of people. Now they need our help.

—Lloyd Shrager

That's Not Incredible!

Glenn E. Fant is probably correct in saying that the most frequently used words today are "you know" ["If You Only Knew," Free for All, July 1]. I would like to add a new dimension regarding word usage. The two most abused words today, in regard to their intended meanings, are "fantastic" and "incredible."

Next time you hear them, look at the total scene in which they are being applied. It will probably be some innocuous situation: someone has eaten three pizzas, or someone is wearing a new suit or dress. People look "good" or "nice" in new clothes, but not "incredible" or "fantastic."

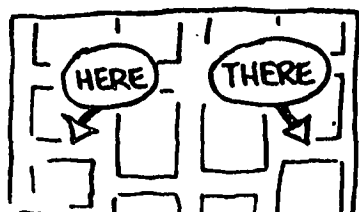
—Bernard Blumenthal

'Fatuous Swipe'

Why the fatuous swipe at Herbert Hoover ["He's Back," front page, July 9]? Does The Post feel some obligation to denigrate presidents? Why the implication that the renaming of the Commerce Building was partisan politics, and the tired, old claim that Hoover somehow caused the Great Depression? Does history go only so far back as living memory at The Post?

Leave the sneering to witless Democrats and Commerce employees who know nothing of this great American's humanitarian acts and significant achievements in business and government.

—William S. Hoffman



By Mal

'America's Palestinian Puppet Newspaper'

The candor of journalism in Washington would take a major leap upward if The Post would add the following slogan under its title: "America's Palestinian Puppet Newspaper."

The Post seemed to place its campaign against Israel's existence on the back burner for about a year prior to Israel's incursion into Lebanon. The vengeance with which it has reactivated that campaign since then has been truly awesome.

I have tracked it with interest and growing revulsion until it reached a point where I could hold my peace no longer. That point came July 8 when The Post gave vent on the front page to the outrageous lie from the pen of Jonathan Randal (alias Arafat? or Haddad?) that ". . . the Palestinian people were expelled from Israel." That Randal and The Post's editors could print something so universally known to be a lie is final proof of the desire of The Post's journalistic clique to help perpetrate the "final solution" to the "Zionist problem."

I would never have believed that such a stream of anti-Semitic venom as I have witnessed for the last month could issue forth from the pages of a so-called major newspaper. Specific examples are almost innumerable: from Mary McGroarty's contention that the Holocaust is no longer a valid basis for Israeli actions (it will always be a valid basis, for the Jews have finally learned that when a group threatens them with annihilation, they must take such a threat seriously and take the necessary actions by themselves against its source, for no one else ever comes to their aid); to Joseph Kraft's stream of invective against Israel (op-ed, July 8), which advocated the ultimate sell-out of Israel by suggesting that Israel's pre-1967 territory, in addition to the so-called West Bank and Gaza, should be

subject to reallocation to the mythical Palestinian homeland; to Philip ("Remember the Liberty") Geyelin's and Rowland Evans' and Robert Novak's constant parroting of the PLO party line; to The Post's selection of photographs calculated to evoke maximum sympathy toward the PLO, such as that of the well-fed little Palestinian girl playing by the dripping water faucet (where are the photographs of the poor little Israeli girls who will never play again because men like the Palestinian girl's father or brother blew them up with PLO hand grenades?—somehow the tragedies of the Jews never seem to count as much in The Post); to the news dispatches from correspondents Cody, Randal, Claiborne and others, which balance off everything even remotely favorable about Israel with discounting and discrediting remarks from PLO and other Arab sources (while deluging The Post's readership with sycophantic praise of everything Palestinian—is the PLO paying them by the word, or what?); to The Post's own editorials, which are obsessed to nothing short of a pathological degree with the alleged centrality of establishing a Palestinian homeland to any solution of the Arab-Israeli problem (which happens to be a myth, as invalid in this situation as it has been in the case of a myriad of other peoples who have been absorbed into national entities not of their own making); to, finally, The Post's entitment in its cause of Jews like Richard Cohen, who are willing to speak against the very anchor of their own acceptance in the gentile world (viz., a strong Israel) in the hope of ingratiating themselves with the powers that be (in this case, The Post's editors). I don't deny the right of Jews to disagree with Israel, but to do it publicly—indeed, polemically—at a time when Israel

needs every last ounce of support from the people for whom it was founded is an unforgivable act of betrayal. No such Jew would ever be welcome in my house nor, I would hope, in the house of any other self-respecting Jew.

Since my charges cannot be denied, The Post's only recourse against them is to write me off as a raving lunatic, a fanatic of the Jewish Defense League stripe. But that won't work: I'm a highly respected professional with the highest degrees from some of this country's best universities. If anything, I'm known for my equanimity, not for any tendency toward tantrum-throwing. And don't charge me with confusing opposition to Israel and anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. That's Arafat's line. The plain fact is that Israel and Judaism are inseparable: to be against one is to be against the other. I'm not talking about occasionally opposing particular acts by Israel but rather about the policy of opposing Israel's interests generally; in short, The Post's policy. This outlook toward Israel by individuals or organizations is nothing more than anti-Semitism directed toward the Jewish nation.

No, it's time The Post looked at itself for the answer to my charges. I suspect it is more likely to accept them as confirmation of its success in conveying the views it seeks to disseminate than as justified criticism. In that case, I can only express my relief that the American government has had enough sense to have largely resisted the influence of the gang of semi-educated, second-rate intelligences who have appointed themselves as the arbiters of our foreign policy and who, regrettably, dictate the reportorial and editorial slant of The Post.

—Jeffrey S. Kane

What About The Numbers, Judy Mann?

In her June 30 column, "The Winners," Judy Mann makes a number of misrepresentations. She says, "Phyllis Schlafly is a media creation with only a small following." Not only is Schlafly the president of Eagle Forum and the chairman of Stop ERA, with a total membership of 50,000, but she also was a leader of other groups opposing the ERA. Right to Life, for example, has a national membership of 10 million and strongly opposed the ERA. Schlafly spoke for this opposition.

Mann calls Schlafly a "media creation." It is interesting that during the final week before the ERA died, The Post had 16 column inches of news on the ERA, 3 column inches of straight anti-ERA copy and 100 column inches of straight pro-ERA copy. During the same period, The New York Times had 43.5 column inches of news on the ERA, 5.75 column inches of anti-ERA copy and 87.5 column inches of pro-ERA

copy. Thus, the pro-ERA to anti-ERA coverage in these papers was in the ratio of 100:3 and 87.5:5.75. Major media coverage has been overwhelmingly pro-ERA.

When Congress gave \$5 million in tax money to pro-ERA groups for the International Women's Year, their Houston rally was countered by a Pro-Family Rally. The 2,000 tax-funded delegates at the IWY rally were answered by more than 15,000 pro-family delegates who gathered from all over the United States at their own expense.

For the first time, the average American was exposed to the demands of the pro-ERA groups as they voted for ERA, tax-funded abortion on demand, massive federal child care for all children, rights for lesbians to teach in schools and to adopt children, affirmative action to put women into jobs instead of men and massive federal spending on social programs. Far less publicized was the Pro-Family Rally's endorsement of a constitutional amendment banning abortion, opposing the ERA and the "glorifying" of homosexuality in the schools and backing the right of parents to raise their children.

Since Mann supports the goals of the pro-ERA organizations, she should be willing to tell her readers what these goals

are and what the goals of the anti-ERA forces are.

Mann claims support for the ERA has risen to 63 percent, but she doesn't mention that the ERA was put to a referendum in six states. It was so overwhelmingly defeated in all six that ERA supporters fought to keep it from being made the subject of a referendum in Virginia and other states. Five states attempted to rescind their earlier approval of ERA. Not one state ratified the ERA after its constitutionally questionable extension in 1978.

Mann makes insulting references to "big military spenders and repressive conservatives." She does not publicize the strong support for the ERA from homosexual organizations and from the Communist Party, USA. In saying "it was the business interests that dominate state legislatures—and profit from sex discrimination—that defeated the amendment," she seems to be saying the enemy is capitalism.

Mann's blend of slanderous attack and factual inaccuracy does not enhance the quality of The Post.

—Joan M. Harris

The writer is assistant to the chairman of Accuracy in Media, Inc.

'Thousands Want Wolf Trap as It Was'

Ted L. Bender and Jon D. Wisman ["This Frenzy Over Wolf Trap," Free for All, July 10] reveal their lack of understanding of the place Wolf Trap has taken in the minds and hearts of children and grown-ups in all walks of life, who learn or already know that life has no depth if one exists on bread alone.

I gave the land at Wolf Trap, the Filene Center, the Old Farmhouse, the Smokehouse and old Log Cabin Guest House for a park for people, and as such the gift was accepted and has been used. During the summer, an average of 2,000 children a day have enjoyed the combination of a music experience and the fields, woods and stream, and now that the Wolf Trap Foundation has The Barns, this often adds another thousand from the Head Start, Title I projects and contacts with public housing.

To keep our ticket prices within the budget of people who want to come to Wolf Trap means a tremendous effort on the part of the foundation (the private arm of the partnership with our government). This calls for raising \$2.6 million for our productions, education programs and the necessary staff. This year is particularly difficult, as the seating capacity of the Meadow Center is about one-half the capacity of the devastated Filene Center, therefore reducing our income. There are many Wolf Trap enthusiasts who have not accepted the temporary building yet, although the acoustics and general

atmosphere have never been faulted.

So, Mr. Bender and Mr. Wisman, please accept my invitation to visit Wolf Trap to learn why it means so much to people in every walk of life. My great surprise has been the sadness of countless children who felt that a part of their lives disappeared when the unnecessary fire swept through their building. We invite you to see their letters in which they enclosed their meager savings for Filene Center II.

We at Wolf Trap are well aware of the present economic situation that faces us all, but hundreds of thousands want Wolf Trap as it was, and many are sacrificing to be a part of the rebuilding effort. We have a little over \$1 million in contributions from 5,722 people—contributions ranging from 7 cents to two contributions of \$100,000. We need \$8 million more to match the administration's \$9 million, the request for which is now before Congress.

I look forward, Mr. Bender and Mr. Wisman, to meeting you and any readers who wish to know Wolf Trap's operation better.

—Catherine Filene Shouse



Making Exception Taking Exception

George Hansen

The Hypocrisy of the Progressive Tax

On the op-ed page July 13, Sen. Russell Long attacked the concept of a flat-rate tax ["Flat-Rate Tax Would Help the Rich . . ."], He carefully constructed a straw system that allowed him to make the outlandish statement that, at 11.8 percent rate of tax, there are people with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$30,000 who would have a tax increase of 1,259 percent. If such an unlikely result is now possible, the senator is making a good case for a flat-rate tax.

But behind all the doctored figures and the indignation on behalf of the poor and the middle class, the thrust of the senator's position is the classic New Deal socialism. The one sacred cow is the progressive tax rate. Despite 40 years of evidence that the progressive tax-rate system has not worked, let anyone urge a simpler, more responsible and fair flat-rate system and the old ideological smoke rises.

Long actually argues against the flat-rate idea because it would only "reduce the degree of unfairness in an inherently unfair system." Is one to believe that the senator prefers a more—rather than less—unfair system? He further argues that

anything less than an absolute adherence to the flat-rate principle would create pressure for numerous other deductions. Can he seriously be contending that the plethora of tax shelters (which he has had a major part in shaping) destroys the progressive tax rate that he defends?

It will no longer serve to trot out the old "soak the rich" as an excuse. All of that breast-beating cannot hide the widening perception that whatever the rate says, some of our super rich pay as little as \$9 on incomes in the millions. The very people who now attack the flat-rate tax have for years had the principal hand in constructing the maze of shelters through which the great part of the wealth of the nation slips untaxed. There is more than a shade of hypocrisy involved in asking the middle-income and poorer taxpayers to continue a system geared to fleece them while claiming to burden the affluent.

When did the idea that those with higher incomes should pay a higher percentage of that income to the government become a principle? Perhaps it is indicative of the wrongheadedness of our approach to taxation that a U.S. senator can

claim the status of a principle for the old-fashioned vice of envy.

And there are opponents of a flat-rate tax who fear that such a system would make it easier for the taxpayer to understand the true cost to him of spending programs that now pass through Congress behind the camouflage of the impenetrable jungle of the tax code.

The final argument for or against any tax system is whether it produces the revenue needed to run the government on as fair a basis as men can devise. I contend that the progressive system with preferential shelters has worn out its welcome. The people seem to agree. The only argument for the progressive rate is some preconceived notion that our nation is committed to socialism and that tax efficiency must yield to ideology. The flat-rate tax meets the test of efficiency and fairness. How long will the Congress deafen itself to the popular demand?

The writer, a representative from Idaho, is ranking Republican on the House Banking subcommittee on domestic monetary policy.



Hinckley Jury: Stop Apologizing

Talk about milking a subject, dry! Every time I pick up The Post I find another story, usually on the front page, about how much the jury in the Hinckley trial has suffered because of the verdict. It felt compelled to render after careful and diligent study of the evidence presented to the court. Each jury member has variously cried, laughed, sweated, lost weight, suffered emotional and physical exhaustion, fought with family members and friends, felt coerced by fellow jurors and the press, developed insomnia—the complaints continue ad infinitum.

Above all of these petty laments—and, yes, a touch of poor sportsmanship—stands the fact that the United States has the type of legal system that provides judge and jury for each person accused of a crime, and in accordance with that system the jury performed correctly in rendering a verdict it agreed was fair and honest. The frequently mentioned circumstance of black jury/white defendant is irrelevant, or should be, and the jury members should not feel they must apologize to those of their race who question their decision. They would be wise to remain silent and bear with dignity the courage of their convictions.

We should all be thankful that the United States has the finest type of legal system in the world. It may not be perfect, but it gives every accused person a chance for a fair defense. Once the system is acknowledged and accepted by the citizens, it is unfitting for them to berate a jury, or for a jury to berate itself, for adhering to it in the nature and spirit of the law.

—Jane Krizan

'We Support Vending'

In the Washington Business section June 21, Jerry Knight's article misrepresented The Greater Washington Board of Trade's position on vending. I would like to clarify our position by saying that we are supporters of vending; we feel that these small businesses are very important and add to the ambience of the city.

The board of trade is one of 33 members who sit on the mayor's task force on vending, made up of 19 city representatives, eight vendors and six business representatives. The major points of the board of trade's position, which were developed in response to proposals put forward by this task force, are:

- Vendors should be permitted to sell handcrafted goods, food that is intended to be consumed immediately and perishable cut flowers.
- Vending should be centralized in the heart of the city—the high-pedestrian-traffic areas without neighborhood orientation.
- Vendors should rent, on an annual basis, the public space they use, contributing to the overall cost of the city services and support.
- As small businesses, vendors should collect sales tax and forward this revenue to the city—as do all businesses—to support the city services they receive.
- For the protection of consumers, all businesses should be required to be responsible for refunds or exchanges of faulty merchandise.

Our concern is for all businesses—large and small. The board of trade represents some 1,250 firms, from one- and two-person operations to the largest employers in the region. Our policy on vending isn't a question of "picking on someone our own size." It's a matter of ensuring a fair marketplace for all businesses as well as consumers.

—Stephen D. Harlan

The writer is president of The Greater Washington Board of Trade.