

Mike Powell, managing editor
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Dear Mike,

When I read today's Meachum column I assumed you were on vacation. I phoned and ^{just} told you were away all this week. While I was disappointed that the paper did not have the self-respect to publish what I sent in when Meachum declared during the Gulf hostilities that Saddam was a man of God, to say nothing of its professional concepts, I am aware that from then until now it has not carried any of his anti-Semitic, Israel-bashing diatribes.

From the time ^{you} ~~he~~ delegated oped-page responsibilities not a single submission I made was published and almost none of the shorter letters to the editor. With so much of his output what would not have offended Hitler, I did not respond to all of them. But had I the oped-page editor would have seen to it that I'd wasted that time anyway.

If he is permitted to continue with those responsibilities after publishing this indecent and outrageous assault on our military, particularly Schwartzkopf, and all of responsibility in the Pentagon and elsewhere, along with a total fabrication of Israel's responsibility for the Beirut Marine-barracks disaster, then the papers you edit are the moral and journalistic equivalent of Der Sturmer.

My wife and I, now both almost 80, presently suffer additional medical problems and handicaps. She retyped what I wrote while I was taking a nap, thinking I intended it as a letter to the editor. I've corrected that by hand and send it without more careful reading to make the outgoing mail, last until Monday.

I've heard reports from inside the paper and other dependable sources that for years even Betty was opposed to George's insistence on paying Meachum for his propaganda, so I know that at least many on the paper are not his fans. I do not believe this column represents either your views or your standards.

I'm writing George separately. If I get it done in time I'll enclose a copy.

Best wishes,

Harold
Harold Weisberg