

Mr. David Ignatius, foreign editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

9/10/91

Dear Mr. Ignatius,

For years I've been sending Washington Post stories to friends, including the non-Jewish history professor in the ^{midwest} ~~med~~west to whom I sent the enclosed letter along with the clippings referred to and others.

Because my letter includes critical comments on the Post's Middle East reporting I send you the enclosed copy.

I did not single the Post out for these observations. I refer to others of the major media. I do not get the New York Times.

After reading Tom Friedman's book I wrote this friend and ^{an} other also a history professor pointing out flaws and biases in it.

There is a marked increase in anti-Semitism in the country, as the ^{an} ~~an~~-Defamation League and others have reported, manifested in the Washington area by the desecration of synagogues and cemeteries and the ^w/~~w~~recking of religious schools. I believe that at least in part this is fostered by incomplete and I think unfair reporting on the Middle East.

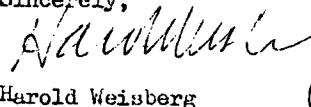
As an illustration, I also enclose a letter to our local papers and my response.

Roy Beachum was with the Post but probably before your time. He has been a local columnist for four or five years. He has used his column for overtly and uniformly anti-Israel propaganda dozens and dozens of times. I've kept a file of them and of my responses. He has yet to show a single factual error in anything I submitted.

His is and has been really frightful stuff, ranging from the statement that Hitler was coerced into anti-Semitism to defending Saddam Hussein as a man of God during the Gulf War and recently including much of what Heusser repeats. He has written that those Arabs we regard as terrorists, specifically identifying those of the Achille Lauro ^{terrorists} atrocity, are not and in fact are only patriots.

What Heusser does not mention and I criticized Beachum for is also in the same column. He reported, without any effort to check, that the Saudis executed members of our military forces there for alleged rape.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

Letters to the Editor
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

9/10/91

Roger Heusser's letter (9/10/91) is a classic case of misrepresenting to contrive anti-Semitism and Israel bashing.

He pretends to be defending Roy Leachum's column, offers no proof at all, including that "Leachum did not lie," and says not a single word that addresses, leave alone refutes my oped page article, and misuses ^{his} supposed defense for what is 100 percent non-responsive to what I actually wrote: that the primary and unquestionable obligation for preparing a defense of our Marine barracks near Beirut was that of their commander. Nothing is more basic in the military. If the commander had not failed to meet his primary obligation, for which he needed no information from anyone else, we'd not have sustained that great tragedy.

While whether or not any Israelis had an "advanced (sic) knowledge of the truck bomb" is not relevant, as anyone who has ever served in the military knows, I challenge Mr. Heusser to present his allegedly "documented" proof of this and of what I believe is one of several propaganda rather than factual statements, that Israel "did not tell the U.S. the location of William Buckley, a U.S. citizen held hostage in Lebanon, even though Israel was officially asked about it by the U.S. Government.... Later Buckley was tortured and killed. Why should the Israeli government withhold the facts?"

William Buckley was the CIA's station chief in Beirut. I believe that not a single ^{Mr. Heusser says} word ~~he said~~ about this irrelevancy is true and I call upon him to prove ^{it} proof of this, too.

There is no reason to believe that anyone knew where Buckley or others taken hostage were held. There is every reason to believe that tortures began as soon as he was captured, to obtain those secrets he had that his captors wanted very much, not "later."

In misusing a pretend response to what I wrote to contrive what I believe is vicious anti-Semitic propaganda, representing that Jews deliberately arranged for those 200 Marines and Buckley to be killed, Mr. Heusser raises the question, does he lie?

If he cannot produce the documentation he says he has, from authentic, reliable sources, not pro-Arab or other extremist propaganda, then it will be apparent that Mr.

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Heusser

(has lied and like Meachum, writes what he really either knows nothing about or has reason to believe is not in accord with the available facts.

Mr. Heusser did say that what he says is "documented." If he fails to produce real rather than propaganda support for his libels, then he owes the papers and their readers a public apology

And he makes it apparent that he, too, is a hate-monger.

Harold Weisberg



9/10/91
**Meachum did not lie
in column on Israel**

This is a response to Harold Weisberg's article of August 16, which chastized Roy Meachum as a hate monger. Meachum did not lie in his Aug. 9 article. It is true that the U.S. provides roughly \$4 billion per year to aid Israel. This amounts to about \$1,000 per every Israeli citizen. It is documented that Israeli government officials had advanced knowledge of the truck bomb that killed over 200 marines in Beirut, Lebanon, but did not tell the U.S. commander. Neither did the Israeli government warn of their pulling out of the high ground. They did not tell the U.S. the location of William Buckley, a U.S. citizen held hostage in Lebanon, even though Israel was officially asked about it by the U.S. government under direction of President Reagan. Later Buckley was tortured and killed.

Why would the Israeli government withhold the facts? Perhaps they simply wanted to get the U.S. forces out of Lebanon so they could have their own way. It is strange that the Israeli government would not assist the U.S. by providing painfully important information that could have saved the lives of U.S. hostages or the marines in Beirut.

ROGER HEUSSER
Frederick