

Letters
EDITORIAL

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Soviet Jews

In your editorial of June 30, the impression is given that Soviet Jews are settling in great numbers in the West Bank and Gaza and that their numbers will push out Palestinians.

The New York Times (June 25) instead reports that out of the 50,000 Soviet Jews who have moved to Israel this year, "only a few hundred of the immigrants, less than 1 percent, had chosen homes in the West Bank, and none are known to have moved to Gaza." Those moving to the West Bank have done so not to displace Arabs but to settle where family or friends already live.

Are the 1.7 million Arabs living in the West Bank and Gaza in danger of being overwhelmed by a few hundred Soviet Jews who have settled in their midst? One hardly thinks so. The real point behind the Arab campaign is to stop Soviet immigration to Israel, not the West Bank and Gaza. It is part of a 40-year campaign to prevent anything that will lend strength or permanence to Israel.
ROBERT C. POZEN 4004 Brandi Court

Animal research

Oh, were it that simple, Dr. McGee. In the July 6 Statesman, Dr. William Gordon McGee, president of the Texas Medical Association and now a leading animal-abuse apologist, hid once again behind his cloak of scientific arrogance. How often have we heard the recitations of the animal abusers: "Animal research cured polio" or some other dread disease. That may be, but many of the cures were researched decades ago, before alternatives were developed which Dr. McGee refuses to discuss.

Dr. McGee asserts that "there are in place complex and constructive regulations as well as expensive procedures to humanely protect animals used in biomedical research." Those "expensive procedures" are oftentimes, as at the University of Texas' Animal Resource Center, the elaborate security measures taken to keep the public out, not the animals in or "humanely" treated.

On the UT campus the most heavily guarded building is not a top-secret defense research lab, it's the Animal Resource Center.

Why won't people like Dr. McGee open their animal research labs to the public? If they are so proud of their work, why can't we see it? The reason Dr. McGee won't is that he and other animal researchers know that the public would be sickened and disgusted if they saw what goes on behind closed doors at research facilities around the nation. His "constructive regulations" are no more than a paper pledge signed by researchers certifying that their animals are treated "humanely;" the researchers are allowed to police themselves. This is akin to allowing Exxon to establish environmental policy; no accountability exists. It is time for Dr. McGee and other animal-abuse apologists to come out from behind their cloaks and reveal what really happens to animals behind closed (and locked and guarded) lab doors. DAVID HANSEN 1500 W. 39 1/2 St.

Cheapening the flag

On the morning of the 4th of July, my 2-year-old excitedly informed me that someone had placed an American flag in our front yard. My family soon noticed that everyone in our neighborhood received the same, courtesy of a local real estate agent. Being someone who loves this country and the freedoms we enjoy, my first thoughts were that this was a nice gesture. They soon turned ugly however, as I noticed that the flags had been made in China.

In your quest for more business, you have sunk pretty low, Mr. Real Estate Agent. You have cheapened the liberty that our flag represents and insulted the brave Chinese who gave their lives last summer protesting for freedom. You have put more money into the pockets of sleazy "American" businessmen who cut deals with the butchers of Tiananmen Square, all for the sake of a buck. Never mind that these snakes have built numerous factories and strategically placed them near the thousands of slave labor camps. If you don't believe me, look around in any number of retail stores and see the endless string of "Made in China" labels. Then, at that point, maybe you'll understand why George Bush has bailed out his big-money buddies by extending most favored nation trade status to a ruthless tyranny. DAVID TORRENCE 4900 Dry Oak Trail

Cable TV

I was away from Austin when I picked up a copy of the American-Statesman with the article "Cable firm seeking to repackage channels". I had been enjoying the benefits of that other city's TV cable, admiring the simplicity and availability of just plain good TV channels, no amateur clutter and users aren't charged for everyone's opportunity to make social statements. I thought to myself, "Austin always argues about how many access channels and where they are on Austin CaptiveVision. What about all the quality channels that aren't even on the Austin system? You must go out of town or own a satellite receiver to discover what you are missing. And try getting the competitor (?) the wireless Cablemax. If you are in an area that CableVision serves, Cablemax won't sell to you!

I am one longtime cable customer who is sick of all the junky channels that pass as a "cable." I will cease to subscribe if they heap all the home movies on the compulsory first tier.

Come on! I dare CableVision and the Cable Commission to offer channel groups like this:

(1) local and area channels (2) news channels and weather radar (3) general entertainment (TBN, USA, etc.,) and non-subscription movies (AMC) (4) sports (5) public information (C-Span, city/county, school district) and (6) local access (7) premium channels. Then charge \$4 per tier for 1 to 4 and \$2 for numbers 5 and 6.

Wanna place bets on how 5 and 6 will fare? Please discontinue forced subsidizing and allow a cable "free market." DICK S. PICKENS 8201 Little Deer Crossing

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Exhibit 10/5 Page 2