

opinion/editorial

'Consistent' U.S. policy displaces numerous groups

We can say one thing for American policy, it is consistent, starting with the steady acquisition of American Indian homelands in the process of settling the country. In the name of "religions freedom" or just plain acquisition, the Native Americans were moved off their ancestral homelands. Not without a fight though. Many treaties were signed, nearly as many were broken. Native Americans were seen to fight as savaged, in contrast, white settlers used guns. The homelands of American Indians are called "reservations."

guest opinion

Obtaining land in South Africa, the Dutch and the British conquered and relocated its native peoples also. The treaty technique was also used, legal documents were signed by illiterate chiefs which granted precious mineral rights to the settlers. For British settlers in southern Africa the move was lucrative. Native peoples were not only displaced but utilized as a labor force. They were put to work in the mines, factories and used to provide domestic services for the whites.

Economic support consistent

The U.S. has been consistent in its economic support of moves such as these. Over two hundred corporations currently operate in South America, U.S. banks have currently 2.2 billion dollars in loans to South Africa. American weapons are presently being used to maintain the police state there.

Officially referred to as reserves or homelands, one third of the African population of South Africa live in rural, barren, crowded Bantustans. These are people not needed in the "salve" labor force of the city or the mines. Other Americans live in townships or barrack-like "hostels" for migrant workers. The law prohibits possession of arms by blacks or "coloureds" (mixed black and white).

Then the Jewish began to settle in Israel their motivation for relocation was "uniting the worldwide fragments of a once united nation", (the Jewish state was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans). This ideology was termed Zionism. Primary too, was an escape from religious and economic persecution and the life in Jewish ghettos of Europe and Russia. During this century the new settlers of Palestine came from around the world.

Mass immigration

Immigration of Jews into the area began en force after World War I and by 1948 there were 500,000 Jews in Palestine and one and a half million Arabs. After World War II, the State of Israel came into being.

At the turn of the century the Jewish National Fund had begun to buy land in Israel. Once the state of Israel was formed laws were enacted entitling the state to land deemed necessary for "military purposes". Land was obtained due to the absence of its owner during times of war (virtually since the formation of Israel). In addition, armed acquisition of properties proved effective in displacing Palestinians (I am referring to the appearance of armed individuals on one's property simply ordering them to leave).

Oppressed press

It appears the oppressed have become oppressors. The homelands of the Palestinians are refugee camps at this moment. They too cannot possess arms.

The U.S. has shown its proverbial colors in offering a peace treaty with no provision for a Palestinian state. We will again support the displacers. We will again effectively be the displacers with a "peace treaty" providing \$3 billion in American weapons to Israel.

We can anticipate the cry of "Soviet Expansionism!" and "We must fight communism!" when freedom fighters accept military aid from whoever they can get it. Our foreign policy appears to be partially based on two familiar adages: Might if Right and surely White is Right. We, too have some historical roots.

Jane Pemberton

Greek relations take step backward

Greek week is designed to promote fraternity and sorority relations in a positive manner. However, at the close of Greek Week last Friday night, it became questionable whether the week's purpose was to indeed promote relations.

At Friday's Greek Night Live, cuts and slams against certain Greek houses were viciously and freely thrown out to an audience who had anticipated the opposite.

One of the masters of ceremonies seemed to have taken it upon herself to portray a Saturday Night Live (TV program) figure, reporting slanderous statements which drew boos from the audience, and prompted many to walk out.

Crude ethnic and pornographic jokes told between each of the acts only seemed to intensify the bitterness the audience could not help but feel.

The week did begin positively. An all Greek exchange dinner provided fraternity and sorority members with a taste of life from another

house's point of view. The Greek Blood Drive also promoted Greek spirit as the amount of blood gathered soared to a record high.

For a while it seemed as if Greeks might have been accomplishing their goal of Greek week. But only, and sadly, for a while.

Greeks who had anticipated a summary to the successful week they had just experienced, were forced instead to witness a mockery of the entire Greek system.

There were talented people on stage, and there were also good comedy acts. The problem did not stem from the performers, but rather from the people who organized and wrote what they assumed would be funny to a Greek audience.

By ridiculing their own system, those Greeks only gave more validity to what vocal independents have been crying for years—Greeks are insensitive people who care only for themselves.

Shelley Smith

'Big' images characterize America

"Americaine?"

The question comes in a variety of intonations and accents, accompanied by any number of stares, once-overs, smiles, suggestive smiles and curious looks.

What's it like being an American in France? What kind of image does that word evoke? How are Americans viewed from the European continent?

mary jo pitzi

These questions come with a variety of responses, ranging from the humorous to the coldly serious.

First of all, there are the inevitable stereotypes. As much as my experiences in France have taught me to dislike generalizations, the broad sweeping images persist.

"America" evokes immediate responses of cowboys and Indians, rich capitalists, money, immensity and warm, open people.

American images

The American is the rich Texan tourist in a ten-gallon hat puffing on a cigar; the glittering, disco-ing "new yorkais"; the easily-perceptible youth clad in worn Levis, a backpack and bright colors.

The typical American city is a rubber-stamp image of New York City. In fact, U.S. geography in a lot of foreigner's eyes consists of New York (the city, they've rarely heard of the state) and California, with Chicago and Texas somewhere in between.

The stereotypes are even bigger than the images 4th-grade history books present of America. Chicago is still the city where machine-gun-toting Mafia members run loose, President Carter is referred to as "President Peanuts" and hamburgers and Coke are the national cuisine.

'Big babies'

American is synonymous with big—big cars, big buildings, big cities, big bank accounts and big ambitions. The French refer to the Americans as "les grands enfants," which, literally translated, means "big babies." Another common nickname is "les belles americaines" (the beautiful Americans) but I haven't figured out if that's a compliment directed to women only, or if it's reflective of our lifestyle.

I've found a sort of schizophrenic attitude towards Americans.

On one side there is a skepticism—almost a cynicism—toward anything America does. It's a big, powerful coun-

try with a lot of influence. Broadly speaking, Americans are judged a lot by the politics of their country. (A stereotyping that exists for almost any country, I might add.) Therefore, nuclear slip-ups in Pennsylvania, government change-overs in Iran and Mideast peace treaties prompt a lot of questions about American politics and policies.

American dream

On the other hand, there is the more one-on-one attitude, that often reveals a strong affinity for the States. Politics aside, the majority of people I've met here (foreigners as well as French) dream of traveling, studying or living in the States when time and money permit. America is still seen as a land of enormous opportunity.

People who have traveled to the States or have American friends speak a lot about the warmth they've found in Americans. American people are seen as easy-going though always busy, very sportive thought not as thin as most Europeans.

The American tendency to smile at anyone and everyone baffles and bemuses people. Often this happy attitude is interpreted as naivety, which, depending on your age, sex and financial standing, can lead to some interesting encounters.

Foreign surprises

Personal experience has convinced me that being young, female and American are some of the best traveling advantages you can have. There is a curiosity about America that is in almost everyone.

Things Americans calmly take for granted are cast in a different light when viewed through a foreigner's eyes.

I clearly remember the incredulity in a French friend's voice when she told me of her discovery of bubble gum ice cream in the States. The Americans get ribbed enough for their tendency to always be chomping away on a stick of Juicy Fruit or Dentyne, but to put gum in ice cream is the final straw!

The idea of sitting down in front of a TV and being interrupted every several minutes by commercials is unbearable to many French. Commercials come before or after a broadcast, but never during.

The U.S.A. is often considered a country where the relatively high incomes of many citizens permit relatively high levels of frivolity. I'll admit that I've seen some pretty ostentatious things in my time, but I've yet to find truth to the rumor that we dye our bread to match the color of our meals!

With the increasing amount of travel abroad by Americans, finding an American in Europe and comparing and contrasting impressions of "the States" is becoming more and more a part of the joys of traveling.

letters to the editor

anything they want. But the conscientious objector is a falsehood that came by the way of a slick "legal beagle" (lawyer).

Conscientious objectors believe in non-violence, right? Of any kind. Just put them in a situation where it's their life and watch just how fast their belief will change.

If he or she feels strongly about it, then let them be the corpsmen, nurses, or work for the Peace Corps or Vista.

At least your letter was honest about the draft.

K. Lucas

Freshman

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Minister Larry Doerr:

The two most cop-out words ever to enter in America today came about in the 60s.

Conscientious objector: is there really any such person(s)?

After my time in Nam (three and a half years), I failed to find any such person. As a platoon sergeant I acquired three such persons—but in fact it was a joke. There is no such person(s).

It's just a nice name for draft dodging is all. Plus you're saying that you don't have to abide by the law of the land. But your CO's want all the rights of America.

Yes, I believe everyone has his or her right to believe