

A disgraceful cartoon, anti-Semitic in nature, was published this week in the Chicago Tribune. Following is the site that shows the cartoon and CAMERA's response.

http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=2&x_outlet=6&x_article=480

Note the cartoon from 1938 that is shown...the parallel is clear

The following is a summary of the paper's response in a trade journal.

From "Editor and Publisher:

JUNE 03, 2003

Locher Defends Mideast Cartoon in 'Chicago Trib'

Some Had Charged Anti-Semitism

By Dave Astor

NEW YORK -- A Dick Locher cartoon in the *Chicago Tribune* drew criticism from the paper's public editor, a *Chicago Sun-Times* editorial, and some readers who felt the drawing had anti-Semitic elements. But Locher disagreed with that charge, and defended the cartoon.

"I was trying to go to bat for the American taxpayer," Dick Locher told E&P Online Monday. "Israel is a good friend, but let's get an accounting of where the money is going."

Locher's May 30 cartoon showed President Bush placing American dollars on a bridge over "Mideast Gulch" in an effort to lure Israel into negotiating with the Palestinians. "On second thought, the pathway to peace is looking a bit brighter," says an Ariel Sharon-like figure as he eyes the money.

Some readers thought the cartoon played into the stereotype of Jews being "avaricious and greedy."

The June 1 *Sun-Times* editorial stated: "The cartoon's message -- that Israel's interest in peace is sparked, not by a desire to end bloodshed, but by American cash -- is a lie that sails beyond legitimate comment into a baseless slur."

And Don Wycliff, the *Tribune's* public editor, wrote June 1: "It is no secret to readers of this column that I have been no fan of Sharon and his policies. But I was jolted when I looked at the cartoon and saw that figure with the hooked nose, the Star of David, and those words -- particularly since money has never been the decisive issue in the Middle East dispute."

But Locher said he's an equal-opportunity caricaturist -- noting that he always draws a big nose on Yasir Arafat (including such a nose on an Arafat-like figure in the May 30 drawing). "Editorial cartoonists work with exaggeration," he explained.

"I had no slur in mind whatsoever," Locher continued, expressing surprise people interpreted his cartoon that way. He said he's not anti-Semitic and that anti-Semitism would "dilute the message" of a cartoon.

Locher added that he thought of the idea for the cartoon after talking over the foreign-aid issue with several friends -- some Jewish and some not Jewish.

Tribune Editorial Page Editor Bruce Dold told E&P Online: "I think Dick Locher intended to make a comment on how the U.S. exerts influence through its foreign aid."

The paper received at least a few dozen e-mails and calls about the cartoon, though Dold and Wycliff could not give an exact number. They both did say that there were more negative than positive reactions from readers. But Locher reported that about two-thirds of the three dozen e-mails he received were supportive.

Locher, a 1983 Pulitzer Prize winner, is a former staff cartoonist for the *Tribune*. He still has a

freelance arrangement with the paper to supply about one local cartoon a week. His national and international work -- such as the May 30 cartoon -- is syndicated to the *Tribune* and other papers via Tribune Media Services. But the May 30 cartoon, while drawn for TMS, did say "Chicago Tribune" in the lower right corner.

A TMS spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment about whether any other papers had problems with the cartoon.

Source: Editor & Publisher Online

From CAMERA

Don Wycliff, public editor of the Chicago Tribune, responded quickly to reader criticism of the paper's decision to run Dick Locher's cartoon "Mideast Gulch" (May 30). In a June 1 piece, Wycliff acknowledged that the cartoon "crossed all lines" and that his "reaction was very much the same" as a reader who viewed the cartoon as "blatantly anti-Semitic, reinforcing the long-held racist image of Jews as avaricious and greedy."

Bruce Dold, editorial page editor, took the view that people misinterpreted Locher's cartoon. Dold believes that "Locher intended to comment on the influence the U.S. can exert through the foreign aid it provides to Israel. I think that's all Locher intended." However, he concedes that the "cartoon carried several other messages that could be seen as drawing on anti-Semitic symbols and stereotypes. It also implied that the U.S. is bribing Israel to support the road map to peace, but there is simply no evidence to support that. On those levels, the cartoon failed." Most troubling is the paper's explanation for running Locher's piece. While Dold was out of town, readers are told, deputy editor John McCormick (with the help of Voice of the People editor Dodie Hofstetter) made the decision in favor of Locher's cartoon because "the policy issue it depicted — the use of U.S. aid to influence the Israeli government — was one that had often been discussed in editorial board debates."

A question members of the Tribune staff should ask themselves is: Have there been cartoons — virulent or otherwise — related to the large sums of American aid to Western Europe and South Korea? Have there been "editorial board debates" and cartoons about aid to Egypt, which receives close to the same amount of aid as Israel? Moreover, the notion that any connection can be drawn between a debate about aid to Israel (which is obviously a legitimate topic of discussion) and the Nazi-like cartoon is troubling.

And one wonders, since Wycliff admits that "money has never been the decisive issue in the Middle East dispute," why has "the use of U.S. aid to influence the Israeli government...often been discussed in editorial board debates?"

Wycliff ends the piece by stating "that this cartoon did indeed give grievous offense to many good people is beyond question." The paper, evidently abashed at having run the anti-Semitic cartoon, nevertheless stopped short of offering an outright apology.