

Kozol fosters change through challenging thought

Jonathan Kozol's speech was meant to incite action, not provide answers.

Doug Hutton's column "Presentation leaves unanswered questions," March 28), a response to Jonathan Kozol's March 19 address in Wait Chapel, completely missed the mark. The

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goal of Mr. Kozol's visit was to challenge our community to develop motivations and ideas that would lead to action and provide real and continued commitment to *Pro Humanitate*, especially after one's imminent graduation.

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to the largest social problems in our nation would be speedily given, but rather as an appeal to some of the most advantaged and able young people, our peers, to think about the world beyond our coddled existence within the Wake Forest gatehouses.

Hutton's argument implicitly concedes that disparities exist in the United States; if they didn't, then why would he be searching for answers to the problems that Kozol so eloquently presented?

In fact, Hutton's native New Jersey has admitted to their share of educational evils. In June 1990, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in *Abbott v. Burke* that inadequate and unequal funding denies students in poor urban districts a thorough and efficient education and requires the state to assure equal funding between rich and poor districts for regular education and supplemental programs designed "to wipe out disadvantages as much as a school district can."

The Court then identified 30 disadvantaged, under-resourced districts and developed a

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comprehensive plan to promote parity between the qualities of education received by all New Jersey youth, working toward a system in which all of the state's schoolchildren be given the best education possible.

Thus, if America promises "equal opportunity" as Hutton contends, we have fallen completely short of fulfilling that pledge.

Equal opportunity is the ideal of this democratic society, but it remains only that, an ideal that we must work to

perfect. It is only when we realize that we, as a generation, are responsible for the future of our nation that the light of hope will not dim.

More troubling, however, is the complete ease and inaccuracy with which Hutton claims to represent all conservatives. It is problematic to label a broadly recognized political persuasion as dispassionate, inhumane and socially stringent on the basis of one's own tempered political views.

To create and sustain a political will, such as one that will work toward the aforementioned ideal of equal opportunity, requires a certain degree of non-partisanship.

This means that those of all political persuasions must work together to eliminate the savage inequalities resultant of educational and other forms of poverty.

In fact, former first Lady Barbara Bush said, "The first (very special choice) is to believe in something larger than yourself, to get involved in some of the big ideas of our time. I chose literacy because I honestly believe that if more people could read, write and

comprehend, we would be that much closer to solving so many of the problems that plague our nation and our society."

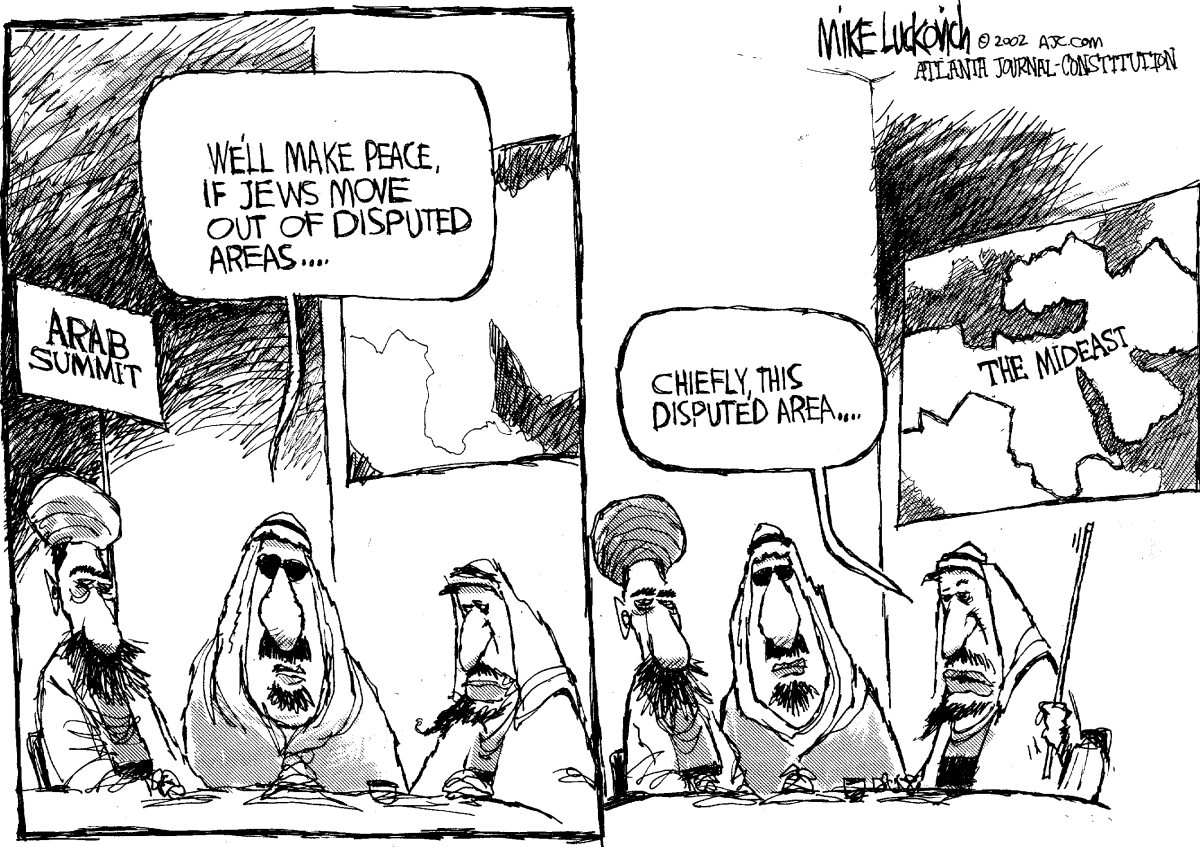
So much for dispassionate conservatism.

The university Statement of Principle reads: "Wake Forest is a community of men and women that seeks the enlightenment and freedom which come through diligent study and learning.

Its higher goal, *however*, is to give life to the University Motto, *Pro Humanitate*, as the passion for knowledge is translated into compassionate service ... Wake Forest strives toward a society in which good will, respect, and equality prevail." (Emphasis added.)

I hope that other Wake students will organize events, such as Jonathan Kozol's visit, that will educate, inspire and challenge our community to live up to its motto.

However, in his article, Hutton demonstrates the same "weakness" he finds in Kozol - a failure to provide answers.



Mideast peace depends on international mediation

The Middle East conflict is complex and difficult to solve, but Israel must take the first step.

The front page of every national newspaper has carried words of death and destruction each morning over the past week.

Whether it be the latest suicide bombing in a crowded Jerusalem café or continued pillaging of Arafat's military compound, photos of smoke-covered streets and blood-stained clothing litter the daily news. While we wage a war on terror, the Middle East continues to bomb itself into

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Other Arab states in the region, as proposed at their recent summit, would recognize Israel as a state if it pulled back to pre-1967 borders.

Though a rather simple solution, getting to the point is nearly impossible.

First, the world has questioned Arafat's true motives. He has little to no hold over the actions of his people, and many still accuse him of being easy on anti-Israeli terrorist groups.

Before Israel makes any peace offering, they must be assured it is not received with a bloodstained hand.

Because of Palestinian instability, Israel must be the leader in ending the violence. Though some may reason that ceasing the current offensive will be giving in to the suicide bombers, it is the only hope to ending the cycle of violence.

A peace agreement cannot be brokered in the midst of war; a unilateral ceasefire and pullback voluntarily enacted by the Israelis will help them shed the label of aggressor. It will also taint Arafat if the suicide bombings continue, forcing him to crackdown and approach the bargaining table with a lesser hand.

Territory is always the problematic point in peace negotiations. The problem with the Palestinian state to be created is the non-unification of its land holdings. The Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Golan Heights are in three different regions, separated completely by Israel. Jerusalem itself has consistently been the downfall of past negotiations, especially President Clinton's last-ditch attempt at Camp David two years ago.

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Though I fully support the stabilization of Afghanistan with the use of peacekeepers and armed forces, it seems absurd that there is such little interest in using the same troops to help stabilize the Middle East.

Many revisionists are saying that our full support of Israel possibly turned people such as Osama bin Laden against us, and helped to fuel the fire of terror. Considering the violent history of the Middle East and the precious resources it provides us, it would seem a foregone conclusion that it would be in the world's interest to resolve the situation. The only problem is finding a nation or organization willing to start the process.

Doug Hutton
STUDENT COLUMNIST

oblivion, speaking terms of truce in the same sentence as ordering a preemptive strike.

The roots of the problem are many and interconnected. Matters are only complicated when nearly all the world's major religions claim the land to be sacred.

Determining which group should retain certain sections of the regions equates to assigning value to the validity of each religion's claim.

Canaan, the land of bread and honey, was the promised land of the Jews, while the Savior of all Christians hails from Bethlehem and Nazareth. Muslims cry foul when Israel refuses to relinquish its hold on the Temple Mount. Many conflicts of interest arise, yet there is no mutually agreeable point to which all can come.

The current intifada and accompanying Israeli action will continue to perpetuate itself in the beauty of its circular nature. Whoever started the violence is not an issue; rather, it is who will end it. Presently, with each suicide bomber comes a further Israeli offensive into Gaza or the West Bank.

With each penetration, another Arab extremist finds the willpower to blow himself to pieces. Each extremist feeds further resentment and more missiles pelting PLO compounds.

Without external mediation, the Israelis and Palestinians will not stop this horrific cycle. Sadly, it seems the only end will come when one side has been completely eradicated. This does not have to be the case. Though each Palestinian death angers Arab leaders in the region, none have declared war on Israel, providing a glimpse of what a (relative) peace may entail.

A viable Palestinian state is possible, provided that Israel recognizes it diplomatically and vice versa. The Palestinian state must have a stable and accountable government prior to this occurring.

We need to stay informed

Keeping up with the news is fundamental to life in our world.

We live in a world of instability and constant change. Surprise.

But so often we don't know what's going on in the world around us. Few college

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guru once said.

We attend a liberal arts university, which means that when we leave these hallowed halls of higher learning we will have a broad knowledge of all academic fields.

Well that's just great, but we won't be much use when we're clueless about the real world, and we'll look like fools when we're standing around the office water cooler and have to ask, "What Palestinian state? Where will we fit that 51st star on the flag?"

Literature, history and, yes, even philosophy, are important to know, but they will do us no good if we cannot apply the knowledge to our current world. We need to stay informed.

Surprisingly enough, it's not as hard as it sounds. For example, *The New York Times* will e-mail you the day's headlines for free.

It only takes a minute to get a general summary of the most important news, and *www.nytimes.com* offers just about everything the print edition has, without getting your hands dirty.

The *Old Gold & Black* Web site also offers updated news links at *ogb.wfu.edu*, as does the university homepage at *www.wfu.edu*.

Or, if you're not into more reading, there's always CNN. Turn it on for in the morning before class while you're getting dressed or at night

before bed.

And National Public Radio offers in-depth news coverage at 88.5 WFDD. I recently had to follow it for a journalism class and was surprised by how entertaining and informative it can be.

It's not always easy to stay on top of things, but it's not difficult to at least have a basic grasp of the world's news. Being well-informed has its benefits and makes up for the required effort.

You'll be surprised at how things start to make a lot more sense when you know the news behind them, and you may even be inspired to take action when you learn about something you'd like to change.

A democracy requires the participation of its citizens, but how can we participate if we don't know what's happening?

Sometimes, news is even entertaining.

For example, today I learned from *The New York Times* that a new national study says cousins *can* safely have children together (though risks do significantly increase).

Hey, it provided a few good West Virginia jokes if nothing else.

And if that's not enough incentive to pick up a paper, remember the editorial cartoons will become a lot more entertaining if you know the news behind them - just look at the one in this week's issue of Bush choking on the Mid East crisis pretzel.

From the superficial to the dramatic, the world's events affect our daily lives, and we must keep up with the news.

So, if you're reading this paper, that's an excellent start. Keep it up and remember to tune in to CNN or pick up a *New York Times* for more information.

Because it's always fun to be smarter than your suitmates.

Elizabeth Turnbull
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

students are well-informed about this nation's news, and even fewer know what's happening beyond our borders.

This is a luxury we cannot afford.

Before Sept. 11, being uninformed was bad enough, but now, especially with the situation about to explode in the Middle East, it is totally unacceptable that we don't know what the world is doing.

With the Internet and instant communication our borders are now more connected than ever. Egypt is only a nanosecond away with e-mail, and its decisions affect you at the gas pump.

Remember the Microsoft.Net commercial with the wine bottles?

There's only one degree of separation.

I am as bad as the next person when it comes to convenient excuses.

Who has time to read the newspaper when you have learn how to find the limit at infinity? Or what about those 150 pages of history reading due tomorrow at 9 a.m.?

That's a good point, but the events of today are the history of tomorrow, as a journalism

