

"The question is not, 'Can the U.S. save Israel?' but, 'Can Israel save the U.S.?'"

— George Will
syndicated columnist



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

George Will knocks deficit-cutting bill

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

WITH A pocketful of one liner and a "sobering message," George Will was the man who came to dinner Tuesday evening.

Will brought his critical eye, a sharp sense of humor and an insider's view of what's right and wrong with the nation and the world. What's more, the appearance of the national columnist and television personality lured some 700 Allied Jewish Campaign donors to Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills to hear him Tuesday night. "I'm not Jewish and, raised in central Illinois, I didn't know much about Jews and Israel. But Scoop Jackson simply changed my life. Scoop Jackson educated me. I support Israel because I'm a free man," Will told the gathering on one of the coldest nights of the year.

A spirited woman approached Will during a social to ask a question worthy of any Jewish mother: "I'm 83 years old and I want to know, are you Jewish and was your son bar mitzvah?"

Undaunted, Will smiled and responded: "No, I'm not Jewish but I wish I were. The Jewish people are so great." Anticipating a stimulating talk, Dr. Marvin Siegel of Bloomfield Hills said, "I like him so much on TV, he can't be anything but great here."

And Sally Krugel of Southfield remarked, "I've heard him before and he's the best."

THE LARGE audience came "out of a sense of community," said Rabbi Gerald Teller, asking for a blessing upon the speaker "who interprets the world."

Southfield resident Joel Tauber, president of the Jewish Welfare Federation, outlined the imperatives for the community: taking the fund-raising lead once again in the nation to face the challenges of assimilating Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society; keeping remnant communities alive in Eastern

Europe; meeting increasing needs of people and programs right here, and more.

"There's much inaccuracy in coverage of the Middle East," said Stanley Frank while introducing the speaker. "That's why it's good to have George Will around. His knowledge is extraordinary, maybe because he taught at Michigan State University for a year."

Will also attended Oxford University and other prestigious halls of learning. Is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, appears weekly on the David Brinkley TV show and writes a syndicated column for Newsweek.

"We're here because we're part of a small, embattled group called democracies," Will told the audience. "My support for Israel is partly because we're both small 'd' democracies."

"I'm not Jewish and, raised in central Illinois, I didn't know much about Jews and Israel."

"But Scoop Jackson simply changed my life. Scoop Jackson educated me. I support Israel because I'm a free man."

"The question is not: Can the U.S. save Israel, but can Israel save the U.S.? We must discipline ourselves to be strong. Israel is a sadly weakened state, and we are in trouble in the U.S., where our basic problem is our fundamental indiscipline."

WILL SAID this country and Israel have similar problems, but show a different kind of staying power, and spoke of "our failure, our stuntedness as a system, a fat, assy society."

Referring to the hard times facing Israel, Will contends the next few years will be "hard, too," faced as they are with the greatest tank armada ever in Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

"The risk-taking by Israel when they gave back the Sinai was courageous," he said. Yet, despite the great cost of the peace treaty with Egypt "there is more peace between Jordan and Israel today than between Egypt and Israel."

"That's why it's good to have George Will around. His knowledge is extraordinary, maybe because he taught at Michigan State University for a year."

Will called it "inine" for the Reagan administration to believe that Saudi Arabia could be a pillar of U.S. security in the Middle East, as for the Carter administration to think Iran was a pillar earlier.

"The U.S. is dividing its time between deploring terrorism and deploring Israel," he said, criticizing the U.S. vote in the U.N. against the Mid-East nation after the bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

CONCERNING A Middle East peace settlement, Will said he is "opposed to dealing with any Palestinians. Nations should deal with nations and most Palestinians are Jordanian."

"We can't improvise and treat various free-lance groups such as terrorists."

The controversy over where the U.S. embassy should locate in Israel should be quickly settled, according to Will.

"I believe our embassy should not only be in Jerusalem, but should be put today in East Jerusalem."

"It's time for the U.S. to be as brave as the Costa Ricans who have their embassy in Jerusalem. The most important reason for saying Jerusalem is the capital of Israel is because we've been told not to."

Will said this is a time for us to show solidarity and constancy with our Middle East democratic ally, and to understand the vitalness of this.

"Israel is not just another interest, candy manufacturers are interests. Israel is a vital sign, a pulse beat."

STUDING HIS talk with stories and anecdotes of the presidency, the Congress, special interests and such, Will said he didn't have any hot stories of Washington D.C., but he had heard a report on the Supreme Court.

The full contingent of justices went out to lunch one day in a fine Washington restaurant, he related. Deferring to the female, Sandra Day O'Connor's order was taken first.

"After she ordered steak," Will said, the waiter asked "what about the vegetables?" O'Connor replied, "They'll order for themselves."

The columnist contends the Israelis ordered for themselves a serious problem with the revelation of the Pollard case, whereby an American procured secrets for Israel.

"David Brinkley and other colleagues of mine keep hearing there's more to come of the Pollard case," Will said, adding, "This is worse than a crime, it's a bummer."

WILL SPOKE as the U.S. House of Representatives debated a new vote on a tax reform bill, referring to "the maelstrom of interest groups at work tonight in Congress."

He pointed out that a president (Reagan) who came within a few thousand votes of winning 50 states, 12 months later can't cut Amtrak.

"The tax reform process is an example. When government doesn't know

what to do, things become a process, such as the Middle East process or the Contradora process," he said.

Will called the Gramm-Rudman Bill, designed to reduce the federal deficit, "the most vile act since the Missouri Compromise directly caused the Civil War."

He predicts that the deficit cutting legislation calling for a 28 percent slash in military spending will "mean a lot of naval aviators are gonna die." Will said the good ones will not re-enlist and new ones will crack up a lot of expensive aircraft.

"If the Israeli aid package comes up when Congress is deleting and cutting from the military, watch out," he said.

WILL SAID democracy "has lost its moral bearings. It's a funny country where pornographers, but not politicians, have unlimited speech."

"The third largest employers in

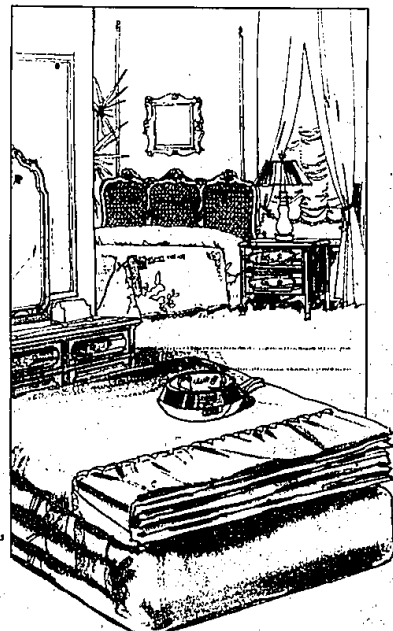
Washington are the 2,500 special interest groups. The cuisinart theory of government is: Just stir things up and the purse that comes up may satisfy all the interest groups."

In a question period, Will agreed that media coverage of Israel is "one-sided." Asked about the low fortunes of OPEC recently Will said Israel's problems "are absolutely unrelated to the price of oil."

Concerning the Soviet Union, he said the Russians are "not interested in peace, only victory."

In his good news category, Will said, "The American people are educable," and on the opening of the campaign, celebrated by his audience, he said, "working on this campaign is good for our soul."

"We are capable of being drawn out of ourselves. As Abraham Lincoln once said, 'We can endure if we listen to the better angels of our nature.'"



WARM HOLIDAY GREETINGS

"Tis the season for winter warmth with this automatic blanket by Fieldcrest. Controls sleep time heat comfortably in "dial down the thermostat" style. A lovely gift for yourself or someone special in champagne or ice blue acrylic. Nylon binding, 5-year warranty. Single control: Twin, \$55; Full, \$85. Dual control: Full, \$75; Queen, \$85; King, \$120.

Jacobson's

OPEN TONIGHT UNTIL 9, TOMORROW UNTIL 6 P.M.



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Reaching out

The Farmington Area Goodfellows brightened the lives of 160 families and 120 seniors Saturday when they delivered holiday baskets to the needy. The Goodfellows spent each night last week in a vacant store at the Farmington Crossroads, preparing baskets for delivery. Center management donated use of the store. Among the volunteer packers were Cindi Udvardy (left) and Linda Zielen. Manufacturers Hanover Mortgage Corp. in Farmington Hills. Baskets included canned goods, some clothing and toys. They also included gift certificates redeemable for fresh food and winter clothing. The Goodfellows raised money through community con-

tributions and their annual newspaper sale. This year's fund-raising efforts topped \$25,000, down from last year's \$28,700. But as Goodfellows general chairman Richard Turner put it, "We're a lot like the fire department. It's a good sign when business is slow." He added, "When the economy is poor, our applicants go up. This is probably one of the best years we had in this area — five or six years probably — so it would be expected that the amount of people in need would go down." Last year, the Goodfellows delivered baskets to 210 families and 120 seniors.