

The Student Voice

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An Opportunity for Connection

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Last year in the early months after October 7, I found myself immersed in a scene of striking division and palpable chaos as I would drive home through a divided Wilshire Boulevard.

To my right, a group of pro-Israeli supporters rallied passionately, their voices rising in a chorus of chants, flags held high, their spirits bonded by the rhythm of Israeli songs. They stood arm in arm, embodying their deep connection to their homeland. To my left, the atmosphere was equally charged, with pro-Palestinian supporters gathering in solidarity, their voices blending into a statement of their own, flags waving in unison.

The mix of honking horns and revving engines surrounded me, drowning out the individual voices of the demonstrators on either side. It created an odd sense of isolation like a muffled barrier that made it difficult to truly hear the intense cries on either side. There I was, an observer in the middle of this emotional battlefield. Each honk of a car horn was a reminder of the urgency of their struggles.

The traffic moved at a crawl, reflecting not just the physical congestion but also the profound complexities of human conflict, where the passions of the heart collide with the harsh realities of the world. In this moment, the street became a microcosm of the larger struggles that define our time—echoes of hope and despair intermingling in the air.

The attacks of October 7 and the subsequent ongoing war have sparked outrage and grief, highlighting the deep-rooted complexities of a long-standing conflict. These events served as a reminder of the profound human cost of violence and the urgent need for dialogue and understanding.

I am a representative of the Buckley Jewish community, and writing this piece has been challenging. My strong identification with this community often urges me to take a strong forthright stance, yet as Editor-in-Chief, I feel a responsibility to remain as neutral as possible and foster unbiased dialogue. I wish I could speak solely about Israel and the realities faced by the Israeli people, my people. However, in doing so I invite the question into our school-wide community: “Why didn’t he write about other perspectives?”

As a Jewish high school student, I understand the profound impact of these events on my community and I firmly believe in advocating for my community, especially in times of distress, yet I also recognize that I cannot fully grasp the pain experienced by Palestinian families caught in the crossfire of this ongoing conflict. Their suffering deserves acknowledgment just as ours does.



As communities mourn and reflect, the calls for peace grow louder, echoing through the hearts of those yearning for a future free from fear and suffering. In remembering this past year, we honor the lives lost and the resilience of those affected,

striving for a world where compassion triumphs over hatred and healing can begin. It’s crucial that we remember our shared humanity. All sides are grappling with feelings of loss and helplessness. I do not want to foster a narrative that pits groups against each other, a narrative that weakens our bonds. In this

light, my commitment to writing this piece without sensationalism is a deliberate effort to counteract the divisive goals of those extremist organizations who wish to see American communities fracture.

In addition, as I write this, it is the High Holy days, a period for reflection and contemplation of our actions under God’s gaze. Is God hoping for me to only write for the Jewish community or is God offering me this opportunity to unite a diverse community through my writing as I still stand strongly with my Jewish community?

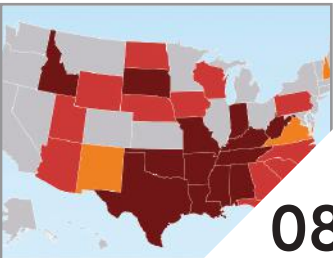
I have realized that I can do both.

We must strive for unity rather than division. It’s essential to see that our similarities often outweigh our differences. If we allow ourselves to be divided, we inadvertently empower groups like Hamas to achieve their goals of chaos and destruction. Instead, let us come together, fostering understanding and compassion, and work towards a future where dialogue prevails over discord. Only then can we truly honor the lives affected by this tragedy and move towards a more peaceful existence for all.

I choose to view this moment as an opportunity for connection. Through this article, I hope to encourage all members of our Buckley community to come together and engage in meaningful conversations about these difficult and painful subjects. The High Holy days are also a New Year in the Jewish calendar. With that in mind, I have a resolution for our community: All I ask of peers, family members, and faculty is to use this moment as an opportunity. Be willing to share and listen, and understand our fellow human’s point of view. Let us use this moment to strengthen our bonds of community rather than tear each other down as we face adversity that the coming year will bring.

Illustration Courtesy of Emmett Sher '26

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