

## **SUMMARY - OPINION PAGES**

**A summary of the review of OPINION PAGES is provided in Table 2, page 19. The OPINION PAGES are an acceptable venue for "Pro-Israel" and "Pro-Palestinian" positions if they do not contain inaccuracies, omissions, distortions, or other components of unacceptable bias.**

### **EDITORIALS**

**All Editorials were Pro-Palestinian. An Editorial that does not favor one side or the other would be considered "neutral." However, the Editorial of May 5, 2002 is not neutral. It implies that both sides are equally responsible for the escalation of violence when it advocates that peace talks should start ASAP before "violence escalates again." The Israeli position is not to start peace talks until unrelenting terrorism ceases. The Palestinian position is to start peace talks ASAP. In advocating that both sides are equally responsible, the Editorial writer erroneously equates the victims with the perpetrators of intentional murder of innocent civilians.**

### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**The Courant published *nineteen (19) Pro-Israel letters and thirteen (13) Pro-Palestinian letters*. One letter was neutral. Although there were more Pro-Israel than Pro-Palestinian letters, it does not necessarily present an unbalanced condition. Since Pro-Palestinian news articles, headlines, and photos heavily outweigh those that are Pro-Israel, response from the readership would probably generate more Pro-Israel than Pro-Palestinian letters. Readers also have a tendency to focus and respond more heavily to Editorials than news articles. This study revealed six (6) *Pro-Palestinian and zero Pro-Israel Editorials*. These two factors probably helped generate the imbalance in letters to the editor.**

### **OP-EDS/COMMENTARY**

**The Courant published eleven (11) Pro-Israel and five (5) Pro-Palestinian articles, or slightly more than twice as many Pro-Israel than Pro-Palestinian articles. One article was neutral. Op-Eds/Commentary reflect the writer's opinion, and if fairly and accurately presented would truly be a vehicle of truth and enlightenment.**

### **POLITICAL CARTOONS**

**The cartoons published over the three-month period were: three (3) neutral, four (4) Pro-Palestinian, and two (2) Pro-Israel.**

### **OVERVIEW**

**Based on the total of all Editorials, Op-Eds/Commentary, and Political Cartoons, there were thirteen (13) Pro-Israel, fifteen (15) Pro-Palestinian, and four (4) neutral. We did not include Letters to the Editor in the combined total since it involves reader response to both news and opinion page articles.**