

## **Subject of email: Your vile Jew hating**

It was with a continued sense of foreboding and weariness that I viewed your statements dismissing any claims of antisemitism in regards to your unoriginal and bigoted scribblings. Leaving aside the absence of any nuance or entertainment value, what really stood out was your tremendous arrogance and condescension in regards to all the Jewish people who have taken you to task. Your cartoons look like they belong in 1930's Berlin. They perpetuate the worst and oldest Jew hating tropes. Of course you know this. This was the point.

The truly breathtaking degree of hypocrisy you exhibit dismissing any criticism and declaring yourself incapable of bias and bigotry isn't quite as amusing as the caricature you paint of yourself. Are you a victim of some fiendish Jewish plot (we DO control the media after all)? Or are you a super tough guy, like you big words seem to imply.

I guess my point here, Dwayne, is to say while your intentions may be in the right place, the way you express it is hateful, bigoted and utilizes Jew hating stereotypes that have been used for the last 1,000 years. Despite your claims of persecution, nothing is happening to you except a bunch of free publicity for your trite and unentertaining art spasms. So, well done there.

I don't hope for a response. I'm sure you can post about how all the Jews were super meannies to you and paint yourself as a the hero. In a related note, my cousin's funeral was cancelled because someone called a bomb threat into our synagogue, saying "Free Palestine!". That's the fear people like you create. That's the violence that you encourage.

Hope you pull your head out of your ass soon!

Very truly yours,



**Thanks for the note, [REDACTED] I can only tell you that there are other Jewish readers who wholeheartedly disagree with your sentiments and see absolutely nothing in my work that is anti-Semitic. I'm well aware of the history you speak of and can only encourage you to consider intent and context as part of any and all criticism leveled against the State of Israel without making the lazy assumption that it is an attack on Judaism. I remain convinced there is a common ground upon which we all can tread together in pursuit of a more respectful understanding of each other by and by.**

**Fish**

Dwayne,

I think your intentions are spot on. Netanyahu is a war criminal and he belongs in the Hague. Israel's retaliatory actions are indefensible. What I take issue with is your promulgation of classic antisemitic tropes - blood libel, conspiracies, etc. If you have a bunch of Jewish people saying they find your images antisemitic, maybe they might be aware of something you don't see and are not simply lazy. Regardless of your intent, people conflate Judaism with Israel and your illustration of Jews drinking blood isn't a critique of Likud or Israel.

Someone carved a swastika and "free palestine" into my mom's car. I've had several close friends celebrate the Hamas attack and dismiss any civilian casualties as the eggs that needed to be broken in order to make a free palestine omelette. I've posted some flames on your FB page, all coming from a place of anger and fear. So, I genuinely appreciate your thoughtful and classy response.



**Thanks for clarifying. I really appreciate it. I absolutely meant no disrespect with any of my cartoons and honestly heard absolutely nothing from the Jewish community regarding the imagery in the cartoon where the men are drinking the blood for the several months before being made part of the Washington Free Beacon's article. Cartoonists often work in shorthand and, as I've explained in some press releases, the men depicted in the cartoon are standing in front of a hybrid flag connecting Israel with the U.S. and are merely meant to represent power brokers for each side; specifically, those with most to gain by a continuation of the conflict. The depiction is referencing a simple metaphor often used in cartooning: Warmongers and those who benefit from the deaths of civilians are, as a metaphor, drinking the blood spilled by their actions. To have an anti-Semitic trope introduced as proof that I was targeting Jewish people, please understand that that was genuinely not my intention. I am open to a discussion about someone thinking I perhaps should have considered using a different visual metaphor and I welcome such criticism, 100%. When my intentions are misconstrued, however, and the debate about whether I failed or succeeded as an artist to keep my commentary better focused with the shorthand I decided to use is proof that I have a hateful prejudice, I don't think that's useful. Cartoons, like all provocative commentary, function best when they're allowed to start conversations and not end them. Having a dialogue with you, [REDACTED], is a prime example of this. *This* is what I find useful and *this* is why I do my work: to provide a space for deliberation, empathy, and a deeper understanding of how better to engage with emotional and combustible topics.**

**I'm am profoundly and genuinely sad to hear that assholes carved swastikas into your mother's car and that you know of people who celebrated the attacks by**

**Hamas on October 7th. These people are thoughtless and reprehensible and I have zero tolerance for such acts of insensitivity and thoughtlessness and hatred. I weep for all who are suffering in the current circumstance and will work tirelessly to inspire conversations to temper the vitriol with measured and respectful dialogue. It's unfortunate that the article from the Washington Free Beacon named me as a raging anti-Semite thereby framing the parameters of whatever conversation was going to follow, particularly when anti-Semitism and all other grotesque prejudices have been increased in the country in recent years. We are all better than that and deserve the opportunity to approach each other with questions rather than accusations and mutuality rather than derisiveness.**

**Anyway, thanks for reaching out, truly, and allowing me the space to consider your observations about my work and have your concerns embedded in my pen the next time I set it to paper. If you are ever in Philadelphia and would like to grab a drink, it'll be on me.**

**Cheers,  
Fish**

Dwayne,

Thank you for your kind wishes. I'm a comedian and I understand the vagaries of interpretation. I also realize the right-wing news (propaganda) outlets are suddenly deeply concerned about antisemitism now they can use it to bash progressives. They were oddly silent in the face of neonazis and other tiki torch wielding idiots. And you're not wrong that valid critique of Israel is condemned as antisemitism. The Free Beacon is a fascist rag.

Thanks also for your openness and consideration. The internet is justifiably infamous for reducing conversations down to name calling, and I'm sorry that was my first recourse. I feel that anyone with a functioning moral compass can see a ceasefire and return of hostages is the only choice.

Dito if you're ever in Seattle.

**I will hold you to that, [REDACTED]. Thanks.**

**Fish**