

Opinion

# West Bank Jews Have Shown Restraint; Look Into Your Heart

March 6, 1994

To the Editor:

I am a member of the Orthodox Jewish community of Brooklyn, a contemporary of Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who committed the brutal massacre in a mosque in Hebron. About 18 years ago, he sat in my living room and I interviewed him for a research project on Orthodox Jews excelling in extracurricular activities. I saw a promising young man, a gentle, compassionate and happy human being at peace with himself and the world.

Today I see a physician turned mass killer, who exuded bitterness and woe. The pessimism and doom he embodied pervade our Orthodox Jewish community. The pain is at times so deep that suicide or homicide seem its only forms of relief.

It is incumbent upon the Orthodox Jewish leaders of today to examine the actions and beliefs that drove one of their own to commit heinous genocide, rather than impute blame on our Arab neighbors for this turn of events. AMY NEUSTEIN Brooklyn, Feb. 28, 1994