

**Roman Brackman**

To: "NY Times Letters to the Editor"  
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2001 1:25 AM  
Subject: Anthony Lewis

Dear Editor:

Re: "Hail and Farewell," by Anthony Lewis (column, Dec. 15, 2001) All four letters to the Editor under the heading "A Defender of Faith in Reason" on Dec. 18, 2001 praised Mr. Lewis for his 32 years of serving "faith and reason" in his columns. I have been skipping his columns until I saw his last one, which I read carefully because I was pleasantly surprised by the word "farewell." I though "good riddance" and kept reading until I stumbled again over his familiar tortured "evenhanded reasoning," hopefully for the last time. I quote him: "Religion and extreme nationalism formed deadly combination in these decades, impervious to reason. Serbs in the grip of religion and mystical nationalist history killed thousands and expelled millions in their "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia. Fundamentalist Judaism and extreme Israeli nationalism have fed the movement to plant settlements in Palestinian territory, fueling Islamic militancy among Palestinians." Equating Serb's "killing of thousands and expulsion of millions in Bosnia" [he forgot to mention Kosovo] to "planting settlements" should remind the Jews that what threatens them the most is not "Islamic militancy" [Israel will take care of it] but a hidden Judophobia, which masquerades in "reasoned fairness and evenhandedness."

Roman Brackman,

Author of the recently published "The Secret File of Joseph Stalin - A Hidden Life".

New York City, December 18, 2001