Garfinkel's portrayal is false

To the Editor:

Simson L. Garfinkel's column upon his return from Israel ["Is-rael has its shortcomings", Sept. 9] calls for several responses. In the first place, one wonders what urged him to write it. No one ever reads columns along the lines: "Scotland isn't what I had expected," or: "Tanzania isn't perfect after all." Yet Garfinkel chose to write a column detailing some alleged shortcomings of Is-rael. Why?

That uneasy feeling is strengthened when one considers his claims, most of which are patently false, even to an outsider. The portrayal of the Israeli as work-aholic that he describes is unimportant. I never heard of the opinion that US military service is no joke. And Arab terrorism demands constant vigi-lance.

This should be no reason to re-nounce Zionism. Life in Israel is indeed harder than in the richest nation in the world. It is also more fulfilling for those who wish to deepen their Jewish iden-tity. The goal of Zionism is to in-vite Jews in Israel and to create a Jewish nation despite the diffi-culties.

Garfinkel's portrayal of the Israeli as work-aholic is almost; but as a social scien-tist, I wonder about the size and stand-ard of his sample, collected leisurely during his sum-mer at the Weizmann Institute.

David Leiser
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