

# Arabism and Judaism

As a regular reader of the *Gateway*, and a politically inclined student, I have never felt the real necessity to write in this, the university newspaper, until now.

On Thursday Sept. 24/81 there appeared an article by Mr. Berkowitz. To my surprise it was published. He actually dares to state that "Zionist is now virtually identical with being Jewish" —

this is absurd. To be a Jew simply means to adhere to the essence of prophetic Judaism. Universal and ethical Judaism consists partly of: Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal; Thou shalt not covet... Love Thy fellow man as Thyself... What Thou dost not like to be done to thee, do not do to Thy fellow man...

The Zionist ideology crashes head on with the above prophecies and consequently violates each and every one. There is a huge distinction to make between a Jew and a Zionist.

In his book "Quovadis Zionist Israel" Moshe Menuhin, a

Jew, states that "A Jew who violates those evolved and civilized fundamental tenets of universal and ethical Judaism is not my fellow Jew. He is a fraud. He only uses and abuses his religion to promote "Jewish" nationalism, the new religion of so many subverted and brainwashed Jewish people."

In his article Mr. Berkowitz tells us that the U.S. gov't has "rejected claims that Israeli authorities were torturing Arab prisoners". On October 24, 1974 a report of an Amnesty International Mission to "Israel" and the Syrian Arab Republic states the following: "...Prisoners complained of beating during transport from the place of capture to the prison...Others complained that ferocious dogs had been used to threaten them...Wounded prisoners were beaten and kicked by guards...Two of them had specific complaints about torture, including severe electric shocks and burning with

cigarettes." This disproves the claims made about Israel of not torturing Arab prisoners.

Mr. Berkowitz also states that "the U.S. Dep't Human Rights report stated that unemployment has nearly disappeared...in Israel and the territories." The fact that no one is unemployed is because a few Palestinians are given the worst jobs and the rest of them are forced into slavery, the constant demonstrations by the Palestinian people in the West Bank will in the least prove that.

Mr. Berkowitz goes on to say that "Israel has executed only one

convicted criminal — Adolph Eichmann." It could be true, however, he makes no mention of innocent Arab beings (sic) that have been executed by the Israelis, a majority of them women and children.

Mr. Tabet is challenged by Mr. Berkowitz to provide statistics of Jews mistreated in Arab lands, consequently I challenge Mr. Berkowitz to provide statistics of Arabs killed in the West Bank, evicted from their own homes daily and those who have been literally massacred in southern Lebanon.

In conclusion, I urge Mr. Tabet to use documentation, more concise statements and a clear approach in future articles. As for Mr. Berkowitz's article it is full of misconceptions and fallacious statements. Your rhetoric is not good even outside the classroom. It is Mr. Berkowitz who must be thanked for awakening my revolutionary spirit and indirectly inviting this, my article.

Oscar Ammar  
President of the Arab  
Student Association,  
University of Alberta

## New fields of vision

Letter to the Editor:

Hopefully in this letter I can set straight some of the things presented in last Thursday's letter to the editor. Some of the statements made last week were far from the truth, or so it certainly seems to me.

The Bible does not mention any time when Jesus spoke out against the Roman occupation of Judea (if it does, I sure couldn't find it, and I've read the New Testament in its entirety). Rather, Jesus encouraged respect for government. Therefore, He did not build a "resistance to the Roman occupation of Judea."

R. Behrens says that "He basically sold out the poor" — this depends on who you think of as poorer — people who have a lot of money, but are often miserable with it, or those who have little financially, but can be happy and hopeful of the new life that lies ahead for them, by believing in Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not sell out the poor. He gave them a reason to live; a way to not feel so poor. Jesus said we will always have poor people, and He was right. We still have the poor today. We will have to the end of the earth, if people keep spending billions on weapons, instead of feeding the poor.

Jesus and the disciples were not "a group of poor people, in the process of fighting their exploiters." They fought no one! And Jesus certainly did not bring division of poor against poor, brother against brother." He taught his followers to love all of mankind. He even said to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you," because "if ye salute your brethren only, what more do ye than others?" He taught love between people, not division.

Jesus had great compassion for all mankind, and taught others to be compassionate, as well. Therefore, if someone was at a huge feast, and knew of someone starving outside, he would invite that person inside to the feast. In exactly the same way, when Jesus said that "He that is not for me is against me," He was encouraging the people to convert others, to bring them into the "feast" of knowing Christ.

I wonder if R. Behrens has any proof that the "life and times" of Jesus have been "highly embellished." If anything about Him was exaggerated, then how could there be such a complete lack of discrepancy between the

Do you think there was some sort of conspiracy to lie about Jesus, when all the books of the Bible contain the same message, even the ones where the writers had not seen each other in decades at the time of writing? Or the ones where the authors had never met?

I will not argue that in some cases, in some denominations, Christ's words were "rather liberally interpreted." Please remember that Jesus warned that not everyone that says they believe in Him will reach Heaven. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." He also warned about false prophets and hypocrisy, some of which may make up the church that you are against.

It is not God who is responsible for the "mess" the world is in, but us humans. Tell me, how much of this "mess" was caused by true Christians? Did a Christian invent the atomic bomb? Are Anwar Sadat, or the Ayatollah Khomeini Christians? Then how can God be responsible for the "mess."

None of us are going to "self-righteously rise above 'our sins' and enter 'his heaven.'" We need to be righteous in God's sight, not in our own, before we can enter his kingdom. This true righteousness may be attained by letting Jesus be our mediator, and savior. He will wash away our sins, so that we can enter Heaven on His righteousness.

I do not know where R. Behrens has gotten his/her information, but Christians by no means "stop thinking for themselves about the questions humanity will forever be answering." Rather, Christ opens up new fields of vision for us, so that we may see humanity's problems more clearly, and He guides us towards the answers to these problems. (Also, I might ask, just how long do you expect humanity's "forever" to be? Our time is running short on this earth, as not only Christians, but many other sociologists, etc., believe.)

Behrens calls him/herself a cynic. This is not a happy way of life. (I should know: I used to be one myself.) My suggestion is to cut off your hostilities, and try a happier life: one that can be found in knowing Christ.

Beth Strong  
Education I

## A chip off the shoulder

We all anticipated the inevitable return, but never before has the KSS Syndrome struck so soon or to such an extent as in this school term.

The U of A Student Services Clinic has already reported 192 cases of KSS in the past week alone, 80 of these being diagnosed as serious and five requiring minor correctional surgery.

Dr. Anne A. Tomey of the clinic has expressed genuine concern as to the future implications of this serious syndrome. She explained the causes and symptoms of this disorder.

"When you think of those young people carrying 20-40 pounds of books and other school supplies in knapsacks, most of this

weight being supported solely by one shoulder socket, it is no wonder that the KSS Syndrome plagues our campus. With texts getting larger and distances walked between classes becoming longer, the situation is aggravated," she said.

"It is quite common to see students, especially those eager freshmen, walking with one shoulder (usually the right) lower than the other. This structural disfiguration is difficult but not impossible to cure," she said.

Students are advised to alternate shoulders to carry knapsacks, or better yet, place the pack straps on both shoulders to evenly distribute the weight.

For immediate relief Dr.

Tomey prescribes a rubdown with heat ointment (available at most drugstores for under two dollars), slow shoulder circle exercises (forwards and backwards) and release of pressure on the ailing shoulder. Students are also advised to sleep on their backs or stomachs for a minimum of ten days.

Are you a victim of Knap Sack Shoulder Syndrome? If so, PLEASE! for the sake of your health and appearance, make an appointment with Dr. Tomey as soon as possible. Or, if this is not possible, quit university and work at Safeway.

Seriously, there are exercise and information classes being organized right now.

Al Uhmik

## Bible incomprehensible

Dear Sir,

Mr. Andersen, in the *Gateway*, September 22, does a splendid job of quoting Jesus out of context. Anybody can snatch a verse here or there out of the Bible to concoct a smorgasbord and a distorted approach to Christianity.

Satan's wilderness temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13) is a classic example of differing interpretation and usages of the Scripture. One can twist the Bible into saying anything. Cults do it all the time.

## Turnstiles a hazard

Dear Editor:

I am encouraged by recent student movements to lower fees, increase student participation, decrease student apathy and generally improve the quality of this university.

It occurs to me, however, that campus political leaders and student activists have neglected one of the main problems currently facing all students presently in attendance.

I am, of course, referring to the three pronged turnstiles located at the exit to Cameron Library and at both the entrance and exit of Rutherford. These are a serious health hazard and should be taken off campus.

At the very least a warning sign should be placed in plain view explaining to students how a fast moving person will cause the turnstiles to spin; usually hitting the slow moving person behind in a most uncomfortable place.

It is my sincere belief that these turnstiles contribute largely to the "painful experience" of studying in the Library.

David Patterson  
Arts III

If there is a desire to be intellectually honest and to really try to see "what the Bible actually says on the matter," the whole of Jesus' teachings must be studied carefully with an open mind and heart.

Space does not permit specific adequate responses to Mr. Andersen's various snatchings, however, interpretive principles such as seeing Jesus Christ (God-man) as the central focal point, distinguishing between law and gospel in the Bible message, taking passages in their multifaceted context, letting scripture interpret scripture, and weighting more important passages against less important passages need to be utilized, also taking into account centuries of interpretation and confession of the Christian faith.

Despite misguided interpretation of Jesus, more eisegetical and truly exegetical (sic), the general thrust of Mr. Andersen's implied criticism of the Christians is valid. However, the truth or validity of Christ's

statements or commands, much more his actions, are not to be discarded simply because many of us forgiven sinners fail to live up to the ideal we shall never reach in this life but continue, by God's redemptive grace, to work at.

To follow Mr. Andersen's logic would be to scornfully reject Einstein's Theory of Relativity simply because many (the majority?) of us can't fully comprehend it.

Sincerely,  
Fred Morck  
Education III

## Singing correction

Please submit this as a correction to Wes Oginski's article on the "Alberta Sings" songbook in the Sept. 24th's issue. Aside from the occasional quotation errors, we would like to correct the article's inclusion of the Dean of Physical Education and Recreation and the President of the University under the heading of a special group.

Appropriately defined, special groups consist of individuals who have not received services or who have received services but which were inadequate in relation to a particular service delivery system. These individuals are more distinctively defined as possessing some special need, either socially, culturally, economically, educationally, physically or mentally.

We appreciate the coverage on our songbook, but only request that more care is taken in the formulation of the article (and other articles) to prevent any unnecessary tension or embarrassment.

The R.S.S. "Alberta Sings"  
Songbook Committee

**STAFF  
MEETINGS  
HELD  
EVERY  
THURSDAY  
AT 4:00 p.m.  
IN R.M. 282  
ALL  
WELCOME!**