

Homeward Bound: 40 York students visit Israel

by Morley Conn

"Jerusalem is one," "Jerusalem of gold" and "Long live Israel" were chanted and sung repeatedly by the couple of hundred Canadian students who had gathered for a rally of support outside Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office January 7 in Jerusalem.

The group, standing under a large banner which read "From Canada With Love," waved signs in English and French expressing support for the government of Israel.

The rally was the finale to a week-long conference of 500 Canadian university students from 18 cities, entitled 'Homeward Bound,' that included more than 40 York students. It was reportedly the largest group of university students ever to visit Israel from one country. The programme was organized through the joint efforts of the United Israel Appeal of Canada and Network-Canada, part of the independent North American Jewish Students Union.

During the rally, Prime Minister Shamir met with 20 student representatives of Network led by national chairman Stephen Granovsky, a second year LLB-MBA student at York. During the 25-minute meeting Shamir spoke about the peace process and difficulties met by the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The prime minister addressed the students, reports *The Toronto Star*, saying, "We cannot understand how civilized people support the PLO, and can ask us to negotiate with the PLO and to accept their conditions because we know better than all other peoples in the world exactly the goals of the PLO." He added, "They speak about peace but they want the opposite. They still want the annihilation and the extermination of Israel. And they say it openly."

For the students who met Shamir, an individual whom they deeply admire, the meeting was a life experience they won't soon forget. Granovsky described the meeting as "one of the highlights of my years of work in Network."

At the close of the rally, the students recited Ha-Tikvah, ("The Hope") Israel's national anthem. It was an appropriate ending to a jam-packed week in which almost half the students got their first short but sweet taste of the Israel experience.

The convention started January 2 with an opening address by Israel's minister of defence, Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin outlined three levels of threat that demand Israel's constant attention and resources: 1) The military threat of state of war that continues to exist with most Arab nations, 2) Palestinian and Shiite attacks on Israeli targets in Lebanon, and 3) The uprising in the occupied territories.

Rabin was only one of a number of senior government officials who addressed the student group. During the week, additional dignitaries included Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

Within the five day span, the Canadian group did some intense touring; highlights included tra-

velling to Metullah, the northern town on the border with Lebanon, visiting Tel-Nof, an Israeli Air Force base, and a 2 a.m. climb of Masada, the famous mountain fortress in the Judean desert.

Menachem Neuer, programme director of the York Jewish Students Federation, attended the convention and, like most, was impressed with the great planning and thought that went into it. "The organizing went off without any problems," said Neuer. "It's a credit to Network and the United Israel Appeal that the trip went off so well."

For Granovsky, the convention

met all expectations and then some. "Anytime you have a trip of this size of which for almost half this is their first time in Israel, the trip is an immediate success," he said. "Everyone learned a great deal and had a good time."

"Hopefully students will take back with them new attitudes and thoughts from the week which will encourage them to become more involved and get student activist energy going."

Morley Conn is a York student who took part in the Homeward Bound conference in Israel during the holidays.

opinion

'Without feminism, we stand alone as isolated women'

As feminist women working at York University, we want to express our sympathy to the friends and families of the victims of the mass murder at the University of Montreal. They are not suffering alone. We also feel horror, rage and fear. Events in Montreal have brought out into the open what has been under the surface for too long: not only male violence against women but also the backlash of anti-feminism. Any of us who talk in our classes of feminist issues are now open to the fear that our words many not only be dismissed but actively held against us.

What happened at the University of Montreal is not an isolated event but a logical outcome of the misogynist nature of our society. In order to fight back against this, feminists need to be heard more clearly and strongly than ever. We cannot retreat into silence; we must strengthen our collective resolve.

As feminists, we reach out to those women who reject feminism, who have been strongly influenced by the media's distortions of feminism as man hating and destructive. Feminism is not the cause of misogyny and violence, it is a response to it.

But feminism is more than a response because it provides alternative visions of change. Regardless of differences between women based on race, class, language and sexual orientation, all feminisms call for a redefinition of the very practices and values of power, privilege and property themselves. Feminisms call for justice, for peace, and for the reconstruction of the relationship between the sexes.

Feminism speaks loudly to be heard in a world that silences women's voices and makes those voices invisible and insignificant when they do speak.

Indeed, feminism is threatening: it does call for major social change. But without feminism, we stand alone as isolated women. With it, we have a strength which enables us to achieve alternatives for all of us. In this sense of solidarity, we send our compassionate support to the friends and families of the victims of the mass murder at the University of Montreal.

Linda Briskin, Social Science
Janine Brodie, Political Science
Lorraine Code, Philosophy
Samantha Dalby, Political Science
Joan Gibson, Humanities
Wenona Giles, Social Science
Barbara Gotell, Political Science
Lise Gotell, Political Science
Judith Hellman, Social Science
Laura Macdonald, Political Science
Thelma McCormack, Sociology
Patricia McDermott, Social Science
Janice Newton, Political Science
Linda Peake, Geography
Mary Louise Steinberg, Counselling and Development
Marianna Valverde, Sociology

YORK UNIVERSITY

Programmes in Israel

SCHOLARSHIPS

Leonard Wolinsky Scholarships: awarded annually to two York students for one year's full-time study in Judaica at an Israeli university. Value of award is \$2000.

Hebrew University Scholarship: awarded annually to a York student for one year's full-time study in Judaica at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Value of the award is tuition and room.

Abraham Isaac Silver Scholarship: awarded every second year to a York student specializing in Judaic studies for one year's full-time study in Judaica at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Value of the award is variable.

INFORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
in Vanier College Faculty Common Room

The scholarships are open to any full-time York University student who has completed at least one full year at York. Preference will be given to students completing their second year of full-time studies and who are concentrating in Jewish Studies. The academic record of applicants will be given considerable weight. To qualify, students must meet faculty requirements for study abroad, receive approval of their course of study in Israel from their faculty and major department, and be accepted by the Israeli university.

HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries about the scholarships and the Year Abroad Programme should be addressed to: Prof. M. Lockshin, Chair, President's Advisory Committee for the York University-Hebrew University Exchange, 238 Vanier College, York University, North York, Ontario M3J 1P3. Telephone: 736-5191.

Scholarship applicants should submit a statement of purpose outlining their projected programme of studies in Israel and explaining how that programme complements their studies at York University. Also required for submission are transcripts of all previous university courses taken and two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a York faculty member. A personal interview may be required.

Applications should be submitted no later than February 28 for awards to begin the following September. Awards will be announced on or about March 31.

EXCALIBUR NEEDS WARM BODIES!

IF YOU HAVE ONE, YOU QUALIFY FOR A STUDENT JOURNALISM CAREER

So, come to our STAFF MEETING TODAY at 4 PM
(and make sure your body has a pen!)