

"Oppressed" Baha'is were criminals

To the Editor:

I read the article "Iranian government tries to force Baha'is to sign their own death warrants" published in the *Brunswickan* of February 15, 1985. I believe this article is very biased and propagandistic and presents the distorted facts.

Firstly, this article wrongly portrays the religions instead of the political persecutions of Baha'is in Iran. The truth of the matter is that Baha'is played a very active role in oppressing the Iranian masses with the collaboration of the Zionists to strengthen the Shah's inhuman and tyrannic regime. Now that non-Bahai oppressors are being brought to justice, why not those from Baha'is who were actively involved in the same crime? Why does this article's writer expect a special treatment with criminals from Bahais?

Secondly, the Universal Code of Human Rights means to protect the dignity and the rights of human beings. It implies that to bring to justice those who are are/were involved in inhuman acts and are responsible for violating the human rights and consequently disgracing the humanity. Contrarily, if human rights code is there to protect the inhuman criminals as your article seems to suggest, then it should certainly be discarded as a garbage piece of writing which conspires against human beings.

Furthermore, I am waiting to read an article in the *Brunswickan* about the human rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, if of course you consider them humans.

Sincerely,
Saif Lanoli

Let's get personal...

Editor:

In another example of your fair and unbiased reporting you permitted your news editor to enter into a personal attack on the basis of "who did what" over the summer months. The well-known incompetent, Cal Johnston, who has already had to apologize for inaccurate reporting in a previous column, has struck out again.

In another of his petty vendettas, Cal decided that since he couldn't do his job as news editor, he was going to use his childish column "Bitchin'" to make cheap shots against me.

He started out by quoting last year's editor-in-chief Mike

MacKinnon (you know, the peacenik who turned out last year's rag), who said "Brown did nothing on the Yearbook." (That is a surprising statement, coming from the man who literally destroyed the *Brunswickan* and taking into account the fact that the work that MacKinnon himself did last summer for the Handbook that didn't even go to print.)

Nevertheless, our junior newsboy went right ahead and printed the drivel without even checking with any member of the Yearbook staff who could have confirmed that I worked on reorganizing Yearbook records in my spare time all summer.

The next attack from Cal (or Mini-Man as he is known among members of the media) came in the form of an accusation that I spent time working for CSL while being paid by the Physical Plant...an accusation which is entirely false. Not only were there very few posters made all summer for CSL, the few times that I did work, (as an unpaid volunteer) I did so on my own time. The facts could have been confirmed by anyone involved, even my supervisors at the Physical Plant, but Cal just didn't bother. Perhaps he was too busy collecting unemployment while singing and dancing his summer in hit pants in the Bruns offices. By the way, I'm not exaggerating...

So much for the impartial press. Cal has proven once again that if a Brunsie has a personal problem they can use the student's money and their paper to solve it.

Hugh Brown
Assistant V.P. Academic

Homosexuality misinterpreted

Dear Editor:

It is with as much sadness as regret that I view the letter "Opposed to Homosexuality." It makes being homosexual sound like a holiday in the South Pacific or like a suit one can fashion from Vogue Magazine. How distorted and restricted such a vision is!

Indeed, as the writer admits, it is their interpretation and sadly enough, the interpretation of many who are equally as unenlightened. The letter that appeared two weeks

ago in the *Brun* is witness to the ongoing discrimination of such individuals as well as perpetuating the same attitudes and "pseudo liberal sentimentality" that affects not only this portion of society but many others.

It is blasphemous and shameful only in the minds of those who make it so. By those so called "conscientious" people. I would ask how many homosexuals this person actually knows and has had the opportunity to converse with. Probably more than the "reader" would like to believe.

I would also like to say that the "reader's" acknowledgement of the great gentleness and understanding, to say nothing of the compassion, of Christ has in no way, not even in minute proportion, appeared in this slanderous note. — Indeed, people live in glass houses!

This "conscientious reader's" letter smacks of ignorance and worse, even more dangerous, is that it demonstrates a closed mind. To think that homosexuals will obliterate the human race is not only absurd but naive. This individual and others close their eyes and minds and populate the segment of society which cannot accept people for who they are. They are threatened unjustifiably and lash out in unfounded judgement. The shame you speak of is your own! Where does your own code of ethics lie!

I share with you the words and wisdom of a certain very talented, distinguished playwright and respected novelist.

"So, let's face it, minorities are people who probably look and act differently from us and have faults we don't have. We may dislike the way they look or act, and we may hate their faults and it is better that we admit to disliking and hating them than if we try to smear our feelings over with pseudo-liberal sentimentality. If we are frank about our feelings, we have a safety valve, and if we have a safety valve we're actually less likely to start persecuting. I know that theory is unfashionable nowadays. We all keep trying to believe that if we ignore something long enough it'll just vanish..."

Christopher Isherwood

Signed,

An ever present member

Defending the Good Book

Dear Editor:

We would like to comment on the letter entitled "Learning from the Good Book," which appeared in last week's *Brunswickan*. The author rais-

ed one point in particular we wish to respond to: "How anyone could believe such sedition in this day and age is beyond me." We believe the Bible to be true and here we will present our reasons for believing so.

To begin with, archeological findings have never contradicted a Biblical reference, on the other hand, archeology has often supported historical detail found in the Bible. For example over 25000 sites related to the Old Testament have been found in Biblical lands. The Bible has also been very carefully copied throughout the centuries. This was verified by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947. They are approximately 100 years older than our oldest copies of the Bible. When comparing the Dead Sea scrolls to these copies, we see very little differences between them (the differences that are apparent occur mostly with spelling).

We also do not feel that science proves the Bible to be wrong. Many won't believe the Bible because it is based on faith. Instead, they tend to believe in science because it is based on facts. But how many scientific facts would be shattered if faith in an orderly universe or in the existence of atoms was not present in science?

Others have problems with the Bible because they try to take it literally. However, this should not always be done because it wasn't meant to be. The Bible was written in a way that the people of that time could understand. Take Genesis for example; if the complex system of events that took place when God made the world was described in detail, who in ancient times would understand it. Instead, Genesis simply states that the world was made in six days and describes what was created in each day. Imagine if the Bible contained scientific details that we wouldn't understand until 4000 A.D.!

We also view the Bible as a consistent whole. The major points in the Bible are very clear and well developed even though its books were written by many authors over a long period of time. Furthermore, many predictions made in the Bible have come true, including the coming of a saviour (Jesus Christ). The miracles in the Bible compliment the message; they don't create it. We accept these miracles with the rest of the Bible, and are not described in a mythical fashion.

We do not claim to be able to explain all of the discrepancies found in the Bible, but we do feel that the straightforward parts far outweigh the difficulties.

We feel that we have a rational basis for our belief, and that the Bible should be considered more thoroughly

before being brushed off as untrue.

Darlene Fevens
Walter DeJong

VP Burgess rude

Dear Editor:

The following statements are part of a formal complaint filed by Yearbook regarding behaviour (or lack thereof) of VP Finance Doug Burgess, in particular his dealings with the clubs and organizations on campus. It is important that students know what to expect when dealing with the Executive of the Student Union, especially if they are in any way involved with clubs and organizations, which, by the way, are recognized by our Student Union.

"On February 7th, I asked Doug Burgess if he could file a purchase order with SUB Staff, as he was supposed to have done three days earlier, so I could get a key to my office and get some work done. Burgess stated that 'it would be done sometime', then, I asked him to please do it by the next day, as work needs to be done, and also asked for a statement in writing from him that he would do it. At this point, Burgess, who was in the Student Union General Office proceeded to tell me, in not a very pleasant manner that keys were not on his list of priorities, that it would get done sometime, and to get out of the office. When he finally lowered his tone of voice, I proceeded to ask why could he not take 30 seconds of his time within the next day or so, and fill out a purchase order, which is the only way for one to get a key from SUB Staff. Burgess then decided not only to kick me out of the general office, but also called SUB Staff to have me removed from the office."

This kind of rude behaviour is unacceptable to anyone involved. It not only hinders other people's work and progress, but it also leaves a sour aftertaste when dealing with members of the Student Union Executive who behave in this manner. If there was some cooperation coming from the VP Finance, there would not be the necessity to keep asking for him to do his work time and time again.

I hope situations like this can be avoided in the future, but I would not hold my breath. This is just another example of the incapacity of some people to see the facts, and realize that other people have work to be done, and have no time for little petty office squabbles, and that in spite of their belief that the world revolves around them, life must go on for other clubs and organizations, with or without them.

Sincerely,
Helena Rojas