

# Forum

Forum is an irregular feature designed to present opposing views on controversial issues of interest to the university community. Any contributions should be typed on a 64-stroke line and double-spaced, and signed. Pieces should be concise, and may be edited for grammar.

## Palestinian state in Israel is current left-Zionist dream

By ABIE WEISFELD

Stephen Aronson and Linda Ross's opinion piece (Excalibur, Feb. 6) in which the compatibility of Zionism with Palestinian rights is discussed, is just an example of the left flank of Zionism.

It is curious that it is generally the left-Zionists who take up the defence of Israel, while Israel itself repudiates the arguments they present. While conceding Palestinians the right to self-determination, they conveniently forget Israel's refusal to recognize the Palestinian nation, referring to Palestine as a "land without a people" rather than the Palestinians as "a people without a land".

Israel justifies its existence by claiming a right to continue as "a nation like any other nation". But, in a world where states such as South Africa and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) exist, no right can justify a state's existence regardless of its constitution.

Only oppressed peoples such as the black Africans of South Africa, the Zimbabwe of Rhodesia or the Quebecois, can claim to have an unconditional right to a national state. The Israelis are no such oppressed

nationality; the Palestinians are.

Aronson and Ross admit to Palestinian self-determination, but they also claim that "Zionism does not necessarily require denial of Palestinian national rights".

But self-determination is valid when the nationality concerned decides how its rights are to be fulfilled — not some other external force, and certainly not the force that presently occupies the concerned peoples' homeland.

The denial of the incompatibility of Zionism and Palestinian self-determination is a fond hope rather than a statement of objective reality. The current favourite "dream" of left-Zionists is a Palestinian West Bank state on the Dead Sea as a solution to the "Palestinian problem".

Aside from the fact that Palestinians do not agree with the solution, the West Bank would soon become a large concentration camp under Israeli sponsorship: an Israel Northern Ireland.

Other left-Zionists agree with the "right of return", while maintaining the present state structure. But if the Palestinians were to return prior to de-Zionization of Israel, it would

result in a situation of apartheid.

This is demonstrated by the social and political conditions of Palestinians presently living in Israel, and by the Oriental "black-skinned" Jews living there as second class citizens.

I reject Aronson's and Ross's assumption that "Jewish national rights and Palestinian national rights are not mutually exclusive", because Zionism is a particular political tendency among Jews which sought to establish a national state in Palestine under the tutelage of some imperial power. (The Czar, Britain and the US were approached by Israelis in turn for guarantees of a Jewish Palestine, rather than uniting with the Palestinians in fighting British domination of Palestine at the time of the establishment of the state of Israel.)

It would be a unique and fruitful discussion to consider the question of alternatives to Zionism as the fulfilment of Jewish national rights, but unfortunately the majority of the Jewish Student Federation agree with Lou Garber's statement that Jews should not discuss differences among Jews before "goyim".

The question of an internal discussion was rejected out of hand.

In claiming that Israel itself is a democratic secular state like any other nation shows that either Aronson and Ross do not understand the nature of Israel, or that they wish to cover it up. By using the Israeli "law of return" for Jews (defined by Israel in the religious sense), Zionism is consciously excluding Palestinians.

The chauvinist position of Zionism is equally self-defeating, because if

national rights are to be recognized for one people, they must be recognized for all, and because by rejecting the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, they are setting a death-trap to the Jews of Israel.

Some Zionists may feel that keeping the flag of Israel flying awhile longer is paramount, but I and the other members of the Alliance of Non-Zionist Jews know that all Israel is doing is demanding that Jews die for nothing.

—A letter—

## Debater states stand

I would like to correct some deficiencies in the reporting on a debate that took place between myself and S. Escobar at York on the subject of the Marxist versus the Christian solution to alienation (March 20).

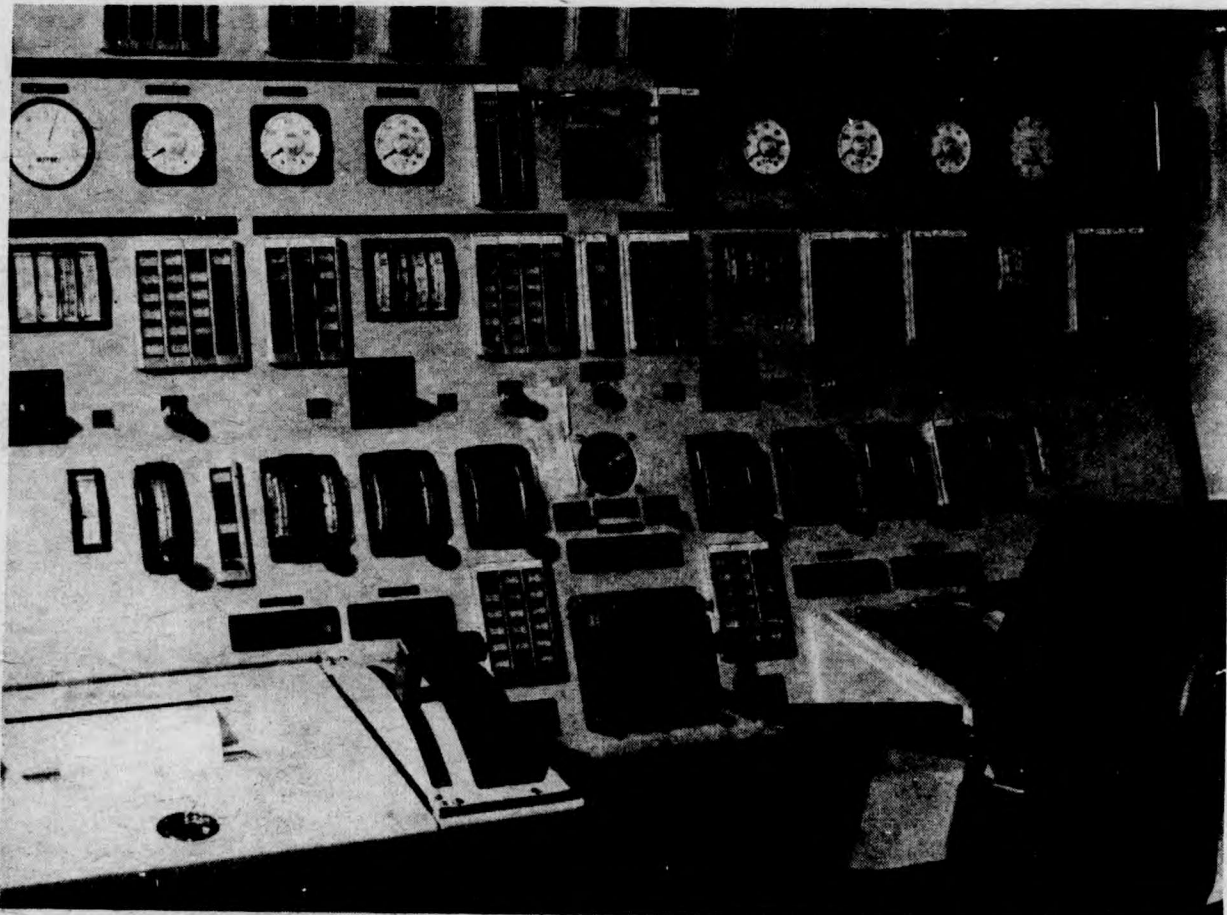
First, it should be noted that I could not be "executive secretary of the York Socialist League", because I am not a member of the York University community. The York SL is a campus club. I am executive secretary of the Socialist League, an extra-campus organization.

Second, I did not state that human alienation can be overcome "in a classless society ushered in by violent revolution". I did not argue

the case of violence; I argued for a revolutionary change that would be the expression of the democratic majority of society taking the power into its own hands.

Third, missing from the article is a central contention against my Christian opponent, and that is that religion itself, like superstition and mysticism, is a form of man's alienation from nature in primitive societies and has been carried over into class society as a residual into the more modern forms of alienation. Hence, Christianity cannot provide a solution to alienation, but rather exacerbates it.

Gordon Doctorow,  
Executive secretary,  
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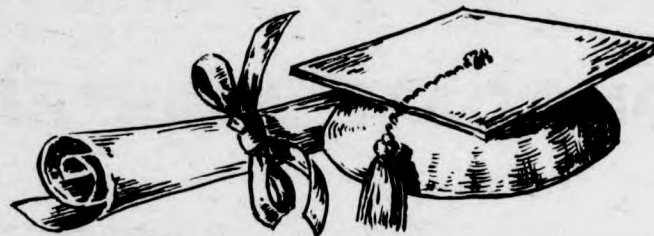


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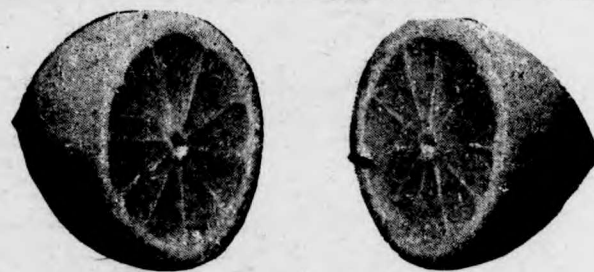


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