

SMITH & BACCHUS

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday

'The Disco Lounge'

Relax and Dine or turn on to great sounds and dance.

DISCO LOUNGE

8625-112 Street

GOING CAMPING?

Swiss army knives by VICTORINOX at a price you can afford

S.O.S. Army Surplus

10756 - 82 Ave.

439-4971

10247 - 97 St.

422-3348

tents, sleeping bags, pack sacks, etc.

Jewish writers can change topics

Two letters appeared in the February 13 issue of the *Gateway* in response to my article of Feb. 6. One letter was from a Ms. Stanley, in which she accuses me of 'biased criticism'; the other was from a Ms. Singer who states that my comments 'demonstrate that anti-Jewish bigotry still exists, even at the University of Alberta'. Both letters contain a number of errors which I would like to correct.

Ms. Singer states that I 'accuse Mandel of using words like (sic) Jewishness, Jewish holocaust' etc. I said that he refers to (these subjects), which is, in fact, what he does. To say that there is an accusation involved, is silly. Ms. Singer says that 'a cursory glance at the important literature and authors (sic) of our time (such as recent Nobel prize winners Isaac B. Singer and Saul Bellow, not to

mention Mordechai Richler, Chaim Potok, Woody Allen, Herman Wouk, etc. etc.) more than suffices to show that the non-Jewish public finds Jewish authors and subjects more interesting than ever before.' I suggest that Ms. Singer take more than a 'cursory glance' because of the six authors she mentions, only Saul Bellow has ever won the Nobel prize (1976). Further, there is nothing to suggest that the success of any of those authors is due to popularity among the 'non-Jewish public', but only that their books are enjoyed no more or no less than any other popular author's works by some people. Ms. Singer goes on to imply that it is because the authors (she mentions) write about Jewish subjects that James Michener wrote *The Source* and Bergman produced (sorry about the pun) *The Serpent's Egg*. Do give them

more credit than to suggest they would sink to imitation as a result of the commercial success of others, Ms. Singer! We know that they have more to offer than that! But to get to the main point that my article 'demonstrates that bigotry exists ...' Your comments are unfair, and any careful reader of the article would disagree with you. I suggest only that Mandel wants the public to have a sympathetic attitude to the problems of Jewish people, he must be prepared to receive sympathy for the problems of others with an equal amount of sensitivity.

My comments regarding the predictability of the subject material of Jewish authors is only born out by your own list of authors, but in pointing out the fact that other (non-Jews, such as Michener) write about 'Jewish problems', you enhance my own argument. If Michener can write about 'Jewish' topics why is it unreasonable to suggest that the authors you quote apply their talents to something other than problems experienced by Jews? By your thinking, every Irish writer should be writing about the problems of Northern Ireland; every British writer should be writing 'War stories' and every Canadian writer would be limited to writing another version of *The Spike*, etc.

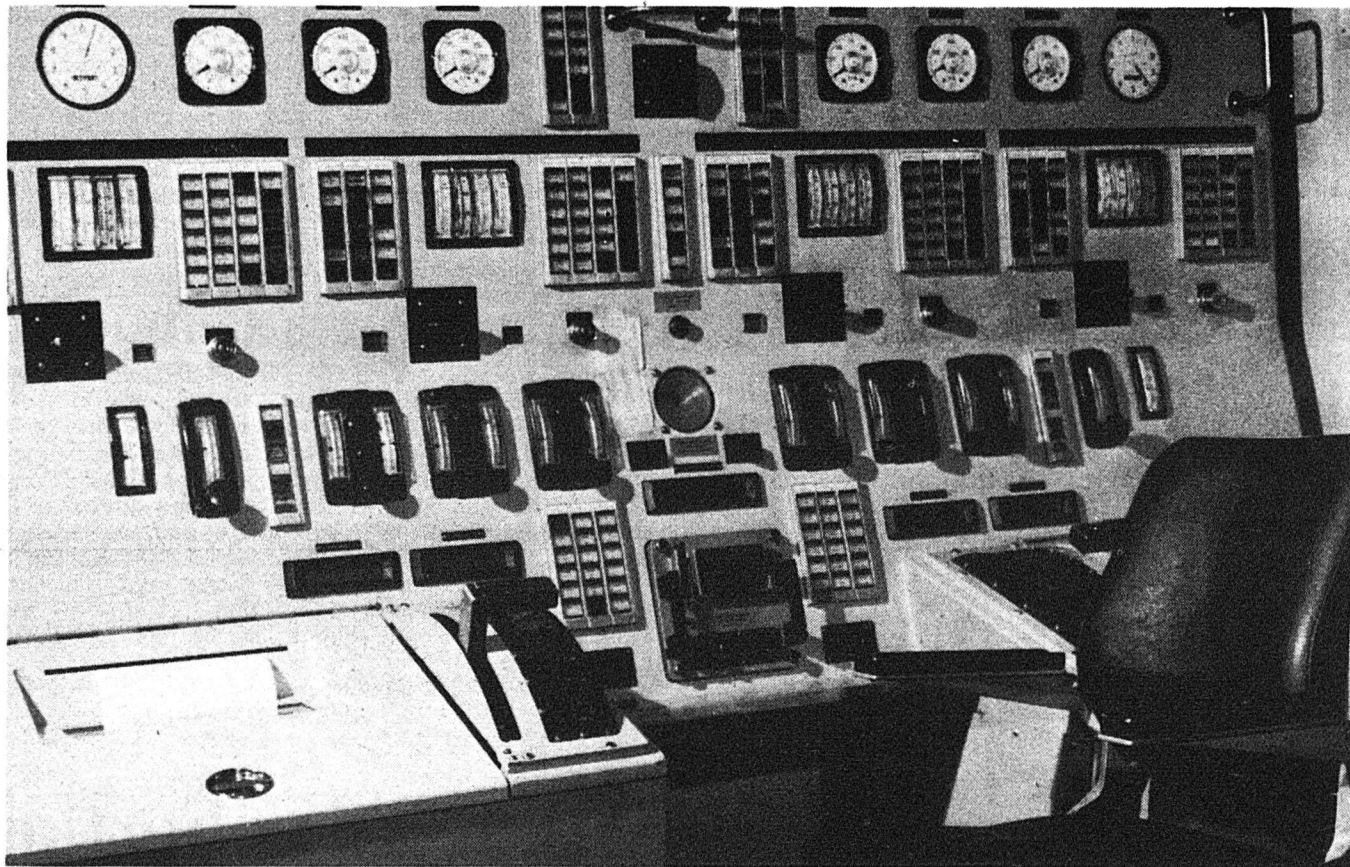
That the Holocaust was a tragedy is something that no one would deny, but I believe that Jewish writers have something more to offer than a constant hash of something that has already been written about many times. It is not 'bigotry' which prompts such a statement: I am tired of the never-ending topic of the war, regardless of the nationality or religious persuasion of the writer. I am tired of those who wish to complain — to brag endlessly about an event which should never have happened in the first place. I am sick of the 'Lest we Forget' slogan which encourages writers to cater to the morbid interests of the masochistic and to ignore the problems which exist in society today. Mandel only happens to be Jewish. I would have said the same if the poet were British, American or German.

I wonder if it is worth replying to a letter such as one from Ms. Stanley in which she 1) misquotes me as saying 'provides nothing of universal import, not 'impact'; 2) refers to Chaucer as though he was a period in literature, rather than a poet; 4) manages to suggest that Chaucer was concerned with the individual; 5) points out that 'illogical (for me) to suggest that we edit our lives', (too true, as you said that Ms. Stanley would never suggest such impossibility!), and 6) forces such illogicalities 'It is our duty to find poetry to be bad to read it', and 7) suggests that government statistics are 'sprouted'.

I think Ms. Stanley's abilities to judge the merit of Mandel's poetry, or my article, are clearly demonstrated by her letter, and need no further comment from me.

It is a pity that Ms. Stanley and Ms. Singer missed the point of the article and chose instead to demonstrate that (in spite of the efforts of the 1976 commission which investigated the problem) illiteracy still exists at the University of Alberta.

Rosaleen M.



If you are an engineer, this chair could be yours.

It's the Master Engineering Control Centre of one of our DDH 280 Destroyers — powered by jet turbine engines, one of the most advanced propulsion systems in the world.

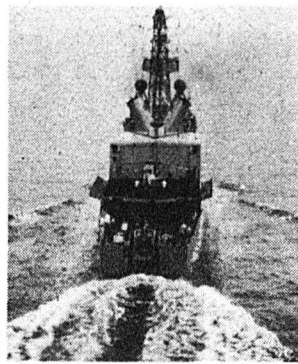
In Canada's ships, Maritime Engineers work in a wide range of disciplines — mechanical, electrical and electronic. Marine Engineers are responsible for hull, main propulsion, and associated systems. Combat Systems Engineers are responsible for the fighting equipment — weapons, electronic sensors, communications and control systems. And both are managers, supervisors and leaders of men.

If you're an engineer, or studying to become one, think about this Officer's career. It will offer you challenge on both a professional and personal level — and might take you anywhere in the world.

ASK US ABOUT YOU



CANADIAN ARMED FORCES



Director of Recruiting & Selection,
National Defence Headquarters,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

Please send me more information about opportunities in the Canadian Forces for Maritime Engineers.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Province _____ Postal Code _____
Course _____
University _____ Year _____