

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

November 9, 1984

THE BRUNSWICKAN-7

Soviet Jews oppressed

Dear Editor:

Last Thursday, November 1st a Soviet professor of comparative education, sponsored by the Atlantic Association of Universities presented a public lecture on the UNB campus. Within the context of his lecture, the speaker asserted that cultural and linguistic autonomy in the Soviet Union is not only tolerated but encouraged.

During the question period following the lecture, the speaker dodged my question regarding the status of Hebrew language study in the Soviet Union. He insisted that he knew of no harassment of Soviet Hebrew teachers, and that he believed that the Soviets provide adequate opportunities for Jews to explore their ethnic identity.

The fact is: Jews in the Soviet Union cannot openly live as Jews. And despite the speaker's feigned ignorance, there is an increasingly well-documented history of Soviet harassment of Hebrew teachers. Barbara Stern, Chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, stated to the *Canadian Jewish News* (October 17, 1984), for example, that

In recent weeks, the pressure on Hebrew teachers and cultural activists has been escalated by the (Soviet) authorities to the level of a determined campaign to put an end to the Hebrew language study among Jews.

The report accompanying Stern's statement reveals that "the apartments of Hebrew teachers have been broken into and Jewish teaching materials have been confiscated." Apparently four Hebrew teachers were arrested by the KGB on trumped up charges this past summer.

In light of documentary evidence, I feel (and I hope all Canadians would concur) the speaker's feigned ignorance to be an affront, and his assertions to be misleading, to say the least.

Prof. Mark Finkelstein
Assistant Professor of Music
Education

Thanks to Rugby team

Dear Editor:

On behalf of all the Campus Police who worked the Rugby Pub on Saturday, November 3, I would like to express our gratitude to the UNB Rugby Team for helping make our job easier and ensuring a safe and good time for all patrons.

David Morrison

Lethbridge runs kakistocracy?

Editor's Note: Contrary to the statement in the following letter about the Canadian Federation of Students Conference coverage, Dave Mazerolle (Editor-in-Chief) and Brenda Paul (Ex-News Editor) are currently in Ottawa covering the conference.

Editor:

I must comment on last week's Mugwump Journal. Oh Lethbridge, I see why you get along with Norris, with your ramblings and fanciful paranoia. The people that scream the loudest about democracy have no idea what that concept involves. These people try to close organizations to others—because I am known to be a friend of John Bosnitch's, I am no longer to be allowed to write for or work at the *Brunswickan*. Of course Lethbridge, a known opponent of John's, is still on staff—is in fact the managing editor. Lethbridge threatens to resign each time someone who has been seen talking to John tries to join the staff. Too bad that the *Brunswickan* would not be able to cover this week's Canadian Federation of Students meeting if I were thrown off staff.

John Bosnitch is criticized for his "debating techniques". Lethbridge, though you find it an impediment, there is a staff that votes on each and every editorial. You showed your true colors when you wrote, "A newspaper does not necessarily have to be run as a

democracy..." Your idea of a good newspaper consists of you running it and with only your views present in it. It is really unfortunate that the *Brunswickan* is under the mistaken impression that it would fall apart without you. The *Brunswickan* could then become an unbiased NEWS-paper.

The impeachment proceedings against John Bosnitch can teach us a few lessons, which you have entirely missed, Lethbridge. The "actual" vote for the impeachment was only six out of fourteen, not a majority by my count! Unfortunately Lethbridge, who is not up for election, insulted the whole student body, especially the 70 observers in attendance at the last Student Union meeting, by suggesting that only councillors know what the issues are... "The massive show of support for Bosnitch by ordinary students... must be taken lightly because the average student is just not aware..." If you are so knowledgeable, why did you not have the guts to run for President yourself.

For five and one half hours questions were asked and answered. The charges were impossible trivial and the charge of dereliction of duty obviously non-existent. Everyone was allowed to speak and fact, it was the "impeachment team" that voted to close debate. Now the "impeachment team," in desperation, has served notice of an effort to impeach the chairman... just another farcical attempt that will serve to disrupt the democratic workings of the Student Government. It certainly is tragic that Norris (acclaimed), Fryer (acclaimed), Lethbridge (appointed by his friends), Currie (appointed by Downey), et al have so much power over student affairs.

Oliver Koncz

Note: Kakistocracy refers to rule by the worst.

Letter to Jews

Dear Editor:

The enclosed open letter to the Jewish people is of general interest. Such non-Jewish persons as the Pope, King Hussein

of Lebanon, Mr. Gromyko of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mubarak of Egypt, Mrs. Gandhi of India, Mrs. Thatcher of Great Britain and Mr. Regan of the United States, among others, were the recipients of this letter.

I think that your readers will find it interesting, particularly paragraphs 36-43 on the subject of war and peace.

Sincerely yours,

Matin Yaqzan
Department of Mathematics

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE

(1) Much of the international news and politics are influenced, directly or indirectly, by you as a people, and you seem to play a much larger role than your numbers would warrant. I have a few comments and questions, and a few suggestions to make, because you may have the key to a new world order.

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(2) As a group of people, you are well known on earth and have a long history. Ten Commandments of Moses have been the cornerstone of some main human moral codes. Christianity owes its existence to a Jewish person, and Islam reveres him as an important prophet of God. Hence about a billion and a half followers of these two religions owe much to the Jewish people and their traditions. On the other hand, the "prophet" of the believers of Communism, Mr. Karl Marx, was also Jewish, and that accounts for another billion and a half people on this earth. It would seem that these things alone qualify you to be the chosen people on this earth.

(3) In recent (centuries), Jewish people have made major contributions in the sciences, arts and literature, business and industry. Einstein has

reigned the physical sciences for the last 80 years. Jonah Salk has relieved humanity of a dreaded disease, polio, and many universities and research institutes, particularly in the United States and States and Canada, as well as in Europe and Russia have distinguished Jewish scholars.

(4) In the political arena, you may not be in the limelight, but few politicians can disregard your wishes. In western countries, particularly in the United States and Canada, governmental bodies like the Congress or the Parliament usually yield in the face of your lobbying efforts. A few years ago, Senator Fulbright said that there was nothing that the U.S. Congress could do against the wishes of the government of Israel. That still seems to be true. You are the master manipulators of the law. In a sense, perhaps you have taught the so called western man to worship the law, which ironically undoes what Christ tried to advocate: that adherence to the letter of the law is not adequate for human salvation. Now, even good Christians will put the law of the land above everything else. Jewish people seem to abound in the legal profession.

(5) You are considered to be hard working, shrewd money managers, and therefore very successful businessmen. Compared to your population in the United States and Canada, you dominate much of the business and money market. Many television networks, and important newspapers and magazines, at least in the United States, are either controlled by you financially, or conform to your wishes through their editorial policy, or the writers, the reporters or other critically placed personnel. You are resourceful and capable of taking advantage of any opportunity that presents itself. Hollywood has exploited your talents and you have exploited Hollywood. You have produced comics and actors, playwrights and producers, musicians, singers and dancers.

continued next week