

In-Depth: The Malcolm Ross Case

"... until you're going to set yourself up where somebody, some Brian Bruce or Alan Borovoy, as to what are and are not legitimate religious opinions to be expressed in your own private time and your own private way; ... it seems a little ridiculous to suggest that there can be limits on a person's sincerely held religious belief."

Of course much of the reason for the controversy surrounding the case is that Malcolm Ross's religious views are far from private. As noted earlier, the Board of Inquiry that originally heard Ross's case had no problem ascertaining that his views were sufficiently well-known to the public, that they served to "poison" the environment in School District 15. Christie, however, contends that Ross's employment should not be contingent upon any agreement, imposed or otherwise, to keep his religious views to himself.

"Why should he have to renounce his employment to express his religious opinions? If it applies to teachers with whom there's some great concern, why should it not apply to lawyers, doctors, university professors, everyone in a position of authority? How can anyone have a controversial privately-held religious belief? They must be silent about all of them!"

Citing the fact that Ross's views have not been discussed in the classroom, Christie dismisses the

argument that vulnerable juveniles might nevertheless be adversely affected:

"There's no end to the stupidity of people who think that they know best what others should say!"

When contacted at his home, Ross declined to discuss his case other than to say that he is currently employed in School District 2 in a non-teaching position.

Despite his personal reticence about the case, Ross's books are readily available in UNB's Harriet Irving Library and offer considerable insight as to why many claim that his writings are inflammatory.

In his earliest and most infamous work, *Web of Deceit*, Ross warns of an "International Conspiracy" composed of three parts: International Finance, International Communism and International Zionism. Alleging that this conspiracy is seeking to destroy Western Civilization, undermine Christianity and establish one world government with its headquarters in Jerusalem, Ross claims that the Conspiracy's virtual monopoly on the world's mass media has allowed its deeds to go undetected by all but a few. While claiming to be sympathetic towards those Orthodox Jews who oppose the "sinister quasi-religious movement" of Zionism, Ross is not averse to implicating large numbers of Jews for being involved

with all three branches of the "International Conspiracy."

Ross's later works such as, 1983's *The Real Holocaust: The Attack on Unborn Children and Life Itself*, also argue for such an international conspiracy which is reputedly behind the movement for women's right to abortion on demand. Alleging that abortion clinics are the real "Death Camps", Ross further contends that the Nazi Holocaust of World War Two has been greatly exaggerated in order to "... create a false sense of guilt in Christian nations by making them feel that their Christian heritage did nothing, really, to keep them from committing acts of vicious cruelty ..."

Likewise, *Web of Deceit* asserts that Russian Communists, in league with Zionist Conspirators, may have altered the appearance of the Auschwitz death camp, "... to make it look as though millions had died there." Thus according to Ross, Jewish casualties during World War Two "... should be numbered in thousands, not millions."

Prof. Gilbert Allardyce teaches courses on the Holocaust and the European Jews, in the UNB History Department and contends that the historical evidence overwhelmingly points to a holocaust which killed approximately six million Jews.

While the exact number of holocaust victims is debated amongst professional historians - some say 5 million; others say as many as 7

or 8 million - Allardyce believes its more important to address the frequent claim of holocaust deniers that the killing was not sanctioned by official state policy:

"The number six million comes from the Nazis themselves. It was a Nazi official - Eichmann - who told one of his subordinates at the end of the war, that the figure was six million. But it's not the number; it's the policy."

"And this is what most holocaust deniers say, yes there were Jews killed, but it was not official state policy."

If that's the case - if it were not official state policy - then this is a crime carried out only in the form of murder by people who acted without any authority. They were 'homicidal maniacs', 'criminal and degenerate elements, that means that the whole structure of the Nazi state - 'those who did not do the killing' - are innocent... it's no longer a state policy, these are acts of murder by individual killers."

While confident that the facts clearly support the contention that the Nazis did implement a genocidal "final Solution" during "World War Two", Allardyce admits that it's difficult to counter the claims of some holocaust deniers because they do not seem to work according to any established historical ground-rules:

"You're arguing with a side that refuses to accept conventional evidence. For example, all Jewish witnesses - and there are thousands and thousands of Jewish witnesses - all

Jewish witnesses are just dismissed by those involved in holocaust denial. Nazi figures ... who give information about the events of the holocaust, they're dismissed as well, by those that deny the holocaust, as either bought off, drugged, paid ... so it's hard to deal with that. I think many people look upon holocaust denial as a very, very ignorant point of view, which I think it is. But it's very difficult to combat for those reasons that they just do not except conventional rules of evidence."

Allardyce believes that Malcolm Ross, in particular, is more interested in downplaying the significance of the Holocaust, in order to further his religious ideas. Nevertheless, when Ross alleges that only thousands of Jews died at the hands of the Nazis, the Historian is quick to interject:

"... no one has any doubt about the holocaust taking place, who's familiar with the sources and the witnesses involved."

While Malcolm Ross will most likely always enjoy the liberty to dispute this seeming historical certainty, given that he has never been charged under Canada's criminal hate laws, his ability to express such controversial views while publicly employed will soon be determined, once and for all, by Canada's highest court.



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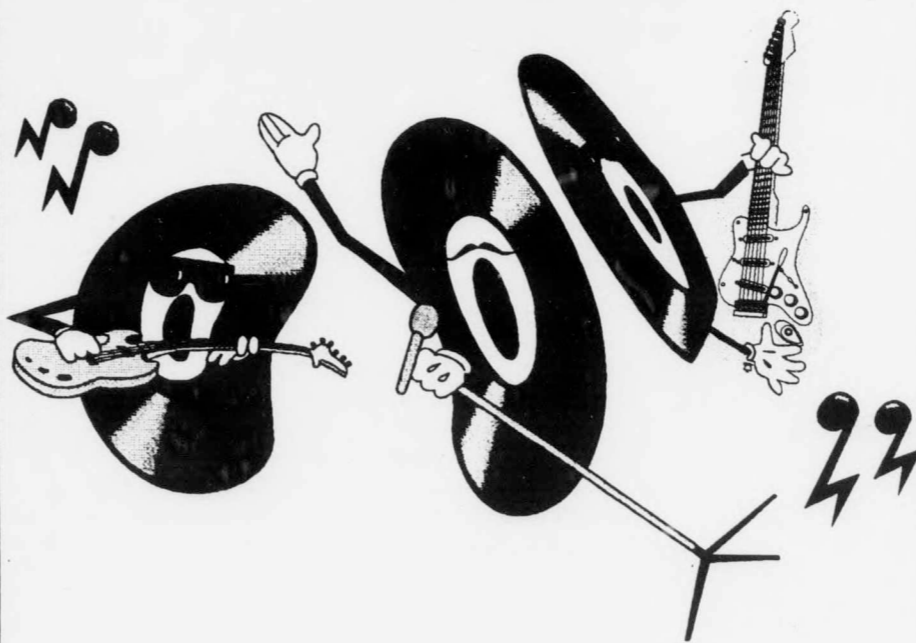
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