

It's soft. It has a hole. It's not sexual.

BY DANIEL CLARK

On the first day God created light. On the seventh day, as we all know, he sat back in his easy chair, with a beer in one hand, a bowl of Cheezies in his lap, and proceeded to watch the 49ers thump the Cowboys. As the story goes.

What the bible does not talk about is the incredible work that God did after those initial seven days. On the tenth day God created the Internet. On the fifteenth day God created NBC's Thursday night lineup. On a colossally bad twenty-fourth day he created both politicians and lawyers (I get the feeling that it was probably a

Monday).

But God saved his greatest achievement for the seventy-second day. This was the day that would be celebrated by Muscovites, and those guys who sell ice cream from their bikes, the world over. He created the world's most perfect food.

The vegetarians are probably thinking that I'm talking about Tofu, and the NRA members think its raw meat. They're both wrong.

This food is not only delicious, nutritious, available in your grocer's freezer, and available in cherry flavour (albeit not widely) — it is also multi purpose.

You can play frisbee with it,

use it as a paper weight, use it to conduct a symphony, replace your jock with it, play fetch with your dog, cool your car's radiator, chase off Jehovah's witnesses, bludgeon your neighbour, harass the Prime Minister, and even use it as a cup holder.

By now you are probably wondering what this amazing food product is. Do you have any idea? Its not potato chips or pizza. It's not even corn on the cob. The world's most perfect food...is a Bagel.

I know what you're thinking, "A Bagel? Isn't that one of those really hard donuts that they sell at Tim Horton's?" No! Those are Bagels as much as John Tesh is a

musician. A real Bagel is soft on the inside, but slightly crispy on the outside. A real Bagel weighs between five and seven ounces (that's 150-210 grams for you metric types). A real Bagel is NOT sold by Bagel Works.

Bagel's have become such a huge part of pop culture, that you can hear dissertations of their merits on 90210, and Jerry Seinfeld would not think of having anything else with his cereal.

You can't go a week in cities like Montreal, New York, or Toronto without hearing a debate over who has the best Bagels. At least a hundred places in those cities proclaim themselves '(fill in city, country, universe, etc. here)'s

best Bagel.

In Halifax it has taken me a year to find a Bagel which at least meets the par standard in other Bagel meccas. Its not quite up to the standards of Toronto's Bagel City or New York's Knitzes, but it is passable. It is a place on Bedford Highway called Bagel Obsession. It may be a long way to go, but believe me your palate will thank you.

So sit back, pour yourself a cuppa Joe, enjoy the paper, and treat yourself to a succulent, filling, slightly sweet, and totally heavenly Bagel. Or, failing that, you can always use it to chase away any Mormons that happen to be passing by.

Fight the Power

The beginning of a new academic year brings with it many challenges such as how you will pay for your education in a period of increased fees and tuition. If you can find a job it pays shit wages, certainly not enough to put you through school. So the debt load grows bigger and bigger. Yet the same banks who you owe the money to are declaring record profits. It's no accident. Your future has been sold by the federal liberal government to the corporate elite.

The suits whine endlessly about the need to reduce the federal deficit yet don't mind saddling you with an enormous personal one. That way they will own you for life because look around, there are no jobs now and there won't be in the years to come when you finally graduate, certainly not ones that will allow anything more than subsistence living. It might be fun to live on the cheap now but do you want to do it for the rest of your life, eating Kraft dinner and watching reruns on TV because that's the only entertainment you can afford? That's life — right! Only if you want it to be like that.

You are supposedly the future movers and shakers. Now is the time to make your voices heard; now is the time to shape your future. In the next few months students on campuses all across Canada will take part in various activities designed to demonstrate our power and our concern for the fate of education in this country. As part of this campaign, aimed directly at the Federal Liberals, there will be a massive show of strength on October 22nd. Plan to be there. Better yet, help plan the day and make it a success. If you would like to help watch for posters or contact the Halifax

branch of the International Socialists.

We in the IS (International Socialists) believe that our society is divided into two main classes: a class of labourers or producers who through their labour produce all of society's wealth; and a class of parasites who do no labour and produce no wealth themselves, but whom accumulate the bulk of the wealth in the form of profits. To us, socialism is about a classless society, democratically run by workers, where production is geared to the needs of working people rather than the profit of capitalists. We believe that socialism is both desirable and attainable. But socialism can only be attained through working class revolution. Under no circumstances will the capitalists of the world voluntarily surrender their wealth and positions without a fight. Socialism can be achieved only through the physical removal of the ruling class from all centres of production and the smashing of their state apparatus.

History teaches us that for the revolution to be successful the existence of a large, experienced, and disciplined revolutionary party is necessary to lead any revolutionary uprising. The IS exists for the purpose of laying the foundation for a future revolutionary socialist party in Canada by identifying and organizing those rank and file working class members and students who are radicalizing. So if you're tired of old style politics where nothing gets better than the position and privilege of the politicians, check us out. Be part of the future.

BRUCE TURNER
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



Let's drop a bomb on our perceptions of Islam

BY ANTHONY SKELTON

From the Middle East and the British Isles to America and Japan, acts of sedition and terrorism have become troublesomely common place. However, it is quite often the case — it has actually become almost an unquestioned assumption — that our first reaction to anonymous acts of terrorism in North America is to assume that they have been perpetrated by Arab Muslims, or Muslim "fundamentalists" as the press is fond of calling them.

True, Arab Muslims have in the past carried out random, reprehensible acts of terrorism. These acts have had calamitous effects on human lives; they must cease. But it is also the case that many Christian and Jewish 'fundamentalists' have perpetrated similarly abhorrent acts of terror. The shooting deaths of various abortionists and the death of Yihitak Rabin bear this out. Yet for reasons unclear, Arab Muslims have managed to retain the lamentably ubiquitous reputation as perpetual security threats. And it is not just some of them, but all. We need only examine the American military presence in the Middle East to establish this fact.

It has been argued that the genesis of this stereotype was not as a result of just one isolated event or action. It comes, perhaps, partly from the American quest for a new enemy or rival. This becomes especially urgent given the decline and demise of the once mighty Soviet enemy. Much as the Communists were demonized by

the American press during the Cold War — and still are in the case of Fidel Castro — the Muslims, as the new enemy, are enjoying this honour. How else do you rally American public sentiment behind bombing campaigns and flagrant violations of territorial integrity but by showing your voters that you are truly eradicating the world of some scourge?

Now, from a purely logical point of view it is easy to see that this sort of generalization or stereotype is wholly wrongheaded. It is fallacious to reason that since some isolated heinous acts of terrorism have been perpetrated by Arab Muslims that all Arabs tacitly accept these action as legitimate or that they pose a continuous and perpetual security threat. It is no more legitimate to argue that because some Northern Irish Catholics plant and detonate bombs in England that all Irish Catholics from the North of Ireland are potential terrorists or threats to security or that they support these acts. The voices of few don't speak for many; nor ought they be assumed to. But this seems to be exactly what is taking place with respect to opinions that are held about Arab Muslims.

Apart from mere concerns of logic, personal experience belies this commonly held belief about Arab Muslims. Having travelled quite extensively through the Middle East over the past two years, I have come to know intimately the affability and amiability of the people of Arabia.

Where in the western world

can you roam metropolises with tens of millions of people? Surely not in New York or Atlanta. Yet this is just the case in places such as Istanbul and Cairo. Where would a stranger invite you into their house to have tea or chat or just to attempt a few words in English? This is a regular occurrence in Egypt, Turkey and Jordan. One never needs to go far to find out directions or information; most times the information or directions come to you.

This sort of phenomena is almost unheard of in our society — it is often spurned and discouraged in favour of urban reserve. We spent a large amount of time in our culture living up to the proverb that "Fences make the best neighbours;" we spent a great deal of time ignoring the maxim that "One ought to love our fellow human being." This is a regrettable state of affairs.

It is often rightly argued that the Arabs have something to learn from the Western nations when it comes to issues of good governance and democracy. Yet it is almost never the case that the opposite claim is made. That is, no one maintains that we have something to learn from the Arabs.

Perhaps it is the case that the Arabs can learn from us. But it is also the case that on issues of friendship, candour and amiability we too have something to learn from the Arabs. Let's take this lesson seriously.

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Share the Angst

Write a letter to the Gazette.

It might not make you feel any better,
but maybe you'll piss off somebody else.