

Reader slams Berger's speech

As one of the listeners and enquirers at Rabbi Berger's speech on March 18, what was said as well as your report of it, require me to respond.

I agree with Berger that Zionists must speak with Anti-Zionists rationally, and I agree this will enhance Zionism and Israel. You report the heckling, and yet your report, like his speech, neglected to hear the serious challenges which were made to his assertions. Berger is heard to advocate "serious debate" — yet when I rationally and seriously argued with him about his reasons for being an Anti-Zionist, I was rapidly and unfairly dismissed for challenging his theological and political "facts".

Berger is heard to accuse Zionists of suppressing discussion — yet he himself resorts to the basest tactics, slander and smear. By dwelling entirely upon the errors and lack of perfection of Israel, he leaps to blame Zionism for a multitude of sins, which completes his argument about why Jews should forsake being Zionists and supporters of Israel.

Numerous Zionists like myself criticize Israel's faults and flaws, yet do not accept these as sufficient grounds to abandon the ancient Jewish love of Zion; nor do these criticisms prevent us from appreciating Israel's great achievements. Zionist Jews recognize the great building yet to be done, especially of peace, but

they recognize Zionism as the great hope of the entire Jewish people, wherever they choose to reside.

Rabbi Berger abandons hope as he enters into his world of conceptual clouds. These, of course, are the very issues he did not want to "seriously debate". "The Jews are not a nation"? Surely the nature of Judaism contains both religious and national elements. Jews have never lost their unique religious and national character. These are historical facts. However, some of us were willing to debate them — neither Berger nor chairman Abie Weisfeld would pause to do so.

What is Berger's other premise? "Reform Judaism has survived without the nation concept." This is another historical falsehood. The Reform Movement found it could not survive unless it recognized the fundamental national element in Judaism. As a person raised as a Reform Jew, besides historical facts, I am convinced Reform is untenable as Judaism if the "people Israel" and the "land of Israel" are amputated from Jewish faith.

It is when Berger resorts to slander and smear by labelling Zionism as racist, as the enemies of the Jewish people do, that he elicits an emotional response, which is necessary to battle Anti-Semitism. You can't argue rationally with the irrational especially when it borders on malice, and perhaps even hatred.

Arab nationalism, in striking contrast to the Zionist attitude, is rigidly exclusivist. It singles out the Jews and denies them national freedom. When the Big Lie of Anti-Zionism is admitted, and they cease denying the national character of the Jews, and they concede to the Jews their rights, then will a peace be possible between the Palestinian Arabs (and the Arab States) and the Jews.

Ken Green,
Osgoode first year

There's no courage in clergy's purge

By BROMME WHARTON

It seems that the latest craze in Christendom these days is smashing rock hits.

Yes, as astonishing and unbelievable as it sounds, Ministers and other preachers, 'lay' and otherwise, are literally spreading the gospel of Christ by smashing and destroying hit rock albums. The Rev. Carl Smith is doing it in Alabama; the Rev. Roper is doing it in Memphis, Tennessee; a lay preacher by the name of Hal Stevens is doing it in Detroit, Michigan; and the Rev. Hugh Layzell is doing it in Hamilton, Ontario.

BIBLE-THUMPERS

We are told by these bible-thumping gentlemen that these rock records made by stars like the Rolling Stones, George Harrison and Black super sexualist, Donna Sommers (of "Love to Love You" fame) are causing a degradation of the morals of society's youth. Its wicked, evil and corrupting influence is destructive to society's good traditions.

Perhaps these gentlemen could explain to us what traditions they speak of. Is it the cultural tradition that goes way back to the arrival of the Europeans in the Americas? The cultural and Christian tradition which allowed and permitted the enslavement or extermination of the Aztec and Inca peoples, while the church stood by, and even assisted at times? Or the tradition of extermination or forced encampment of the North American native people, and the brutal seizure of land that is going on even today? Or perhaps it is the tradition of slavery for profit, trafficking in formerly free African men and women.

What these ministers and preachers are trying to deny is that the real reasons for the moral decay of the society is not to be found in the offices of record companies, but in the offices of the political leaders of the land. It is to be found in the offices of the leading corporations and enterprises on this continent, and the Latin American continent.

Did rock singers drop bombs on babies in Viet Nam and Cambodia? Were any rock singers involved in sending 55,000 American men to their deaths? Or perhaps rock singers were involved in the racist regimes in Southern Africa where people are judged by the colour of their skin and imprisoned for the content of their minds, especially if those minds are thinking of freedom and equality.

I know of no rock singers who are involved in, or responsible for, the rises in gasoline, rent or food costs, yet these Christian gentlemen would have us believe that their impact through their music (which is probably influenced by African roots) is destroying Anglo-American society.

SELF-DESTRUCTION

I must regrettably point out that Anglo-American society (Canada and the U.S.A.) is destroying itself from within with the greed, avarice, and corruption even in its highest places, the continued emphasis on material wealth and possessions, the hatred, dislike and depredation of things and people that are different and — probably the most important reason for the break up of family life — the unbelievable hypocrisy of some parents and older people.

MEETING OF THE STUDENT CAUCUS

Faculty of Arts

IN

S203 ROSS

Thursday April 8, 1976

4:30 P.M.

TO DISCUSS THE CONSTITUTION

HELP WANTED

THE Council of the York Student Federation urges all interested persons to apply for the following positions to be hired by the 1976-77 Council.

Secretary-Receptionist - The secretary shall be responsible to the Council for the efficient operation of the CYSF office. Duties include general reception, typing and the carrying out of day to day general office duties.

Requirements: previous secretarial-receptionist experience. Shorthand an asset.

Salary: to be determined by Council. Approx. 7-8 thousand dollars yearly.

Speaker: The speaker shall preside at meetings of the council.

Requirements: working knowledge of Bourinot's Rules of Order as stated in Letters Patent - working knowledge of CYSF constitution.

Salary: to be determined by council. Approx. 12.50 per meeting.

Student Handbook Editor: The S.H.E. will be responsible for the publication and distribution in September of a Student Handbook of use to students.

Requirements: previous journalistic experience.

Salary: to be determined by Council. Approx. 500.-750.

Student Handbook, Advertising Mgr.: the student handbook must pay for itself through the sale of advertising. The advertising mgr. is responsible for the sale of such ads.

Requirements: previous experience in sales and a willingness to go out and really hustle.

Salary: a commission will be determined by the council.

Applications for Speaker and secretary must be submitted to Alex Ahee c/o CYSF. Applications for handbook editor must be submitted to Julian Beltrame c/o Excalibur and applications for Advertising Mgr. to Barry Edson. c/o CYSF.

The Deadline for all applications is April 23rd.



Staff meeting
2 p.m. today

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