

Protesters halt airing of Israeli viewpoint

by Cathy McLaughlin

Anti-Zionist demonstrators closed down a Hillel club forum Friday in the Law Centre.

Shouting, "down with Zionism! Racism!", the activists harangued the speaker, Colonel Yehuda Levy of the Israeli Defense Reserves, for over an hour.

Levy spoke for twenty minutes before the doors burst open and the demonstrators, who had collected quietly outside, entered the seminar room.

The group, called the People's Front Against Racist and Fascist Violence, refused to allow the colonel to continue his talk or answer questions.

"We believe that racists and fascists have no right to speak or

organize," said one member.

City police and campus security arrived shortly after the dispute began, but their presence did not deter the demonstrators. They chanted, jeered the colonel, and kicked the walls to disrupt the meeting. No arrests were made.

Before he was interrupted, Colonel Levy stated that he did not represent his government, but was there "to convey the thoughts and feelings of an Israeli."

These thoughts included the belief that Israel's last operation was "the most difficult and complicated manoeuvre in Israeli history."

"It was essential to our survival, even though many Israelis disagree."

Levy voiced "the cruel dilemma" of invading heavily populated civilian

areas, but deemed it necessary to stop the PLO threat.

"We found PLO documents in Southern Lebanon naming Israeli settlements that were assigned to PLO artillery units: all were civilian settlements; none were on occupied land."

A Palestinian in the crowd asked why he "could not go home" while all Jews, regardless of nationality, "are given a priority right of citizenship."

"Anyone born in Israel," said Levy, "has full rights of citizenship, whether he be Jew, Arab or Christian."

"Those born in the territories, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are not Israeli citizens."

The fact that the Israelis allow Jews from other countries to enter

Israel, while restricting others, "does not smack of racism," according to the colonel.

"A sovereign country has the right to control immigration."

After the meeting erupted in chaos once more, it moved to a storage room in Fine Arts, without the demonstrators. Levy was questioned on the results of the Lebanon invasion.

"The Galilee region now has peace. This was the biggest goal of the operation."

"Secondly, the PLO has lost its veto power over any agreement in the Middle East." Egypt, said Levy, was isolated five months ago for its conciliatory stance. Now, without PLO veto restrictions, "Egypt is back in the process of taking leadership in the Arab world."

Levy saw the influence of the West playing a greater role. He cited the Arab leaders' visit to Washington, among them the Syrian ambassador, as a hopeful sign.

"We're seeing rising elements of moderation in the Arab world."

Asked why the Israelis invaded West Beirut, Levy stated it was necessary, after the death of Lebanese leader Bashir Gemayel, to move in before the PLO regrouped.

"With Bashir gone, chaos would have resulted."

This operation, said the colonel, "had nothing to do" with the massacre of civilians in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps.

According to Levy, the Israelis had pressured the Lebanese to rid these camps of terrorists while Gemayel was still alive.

"Terrorism was a big problem there."

The Israelis, prevented by agreement with the Western peace-keeping forces to enter the camps, gave the go-ahead to Christian Phalangists to rid the areas of gunmen.

"They promised us not to touch civilians, or we wouldn't have let them go in."

"As a soldier," Levy said he believed the Phalangists had not intended to kill civilians.

"The situation got out of control."

Concluding, the colonel expressed dismay at the scene in the Law Centre.

"It is this kind of thing that prevents civilized dialogue between peoples."

Levy said he has spoken in B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba without trouble.

The protesters' reasons for action

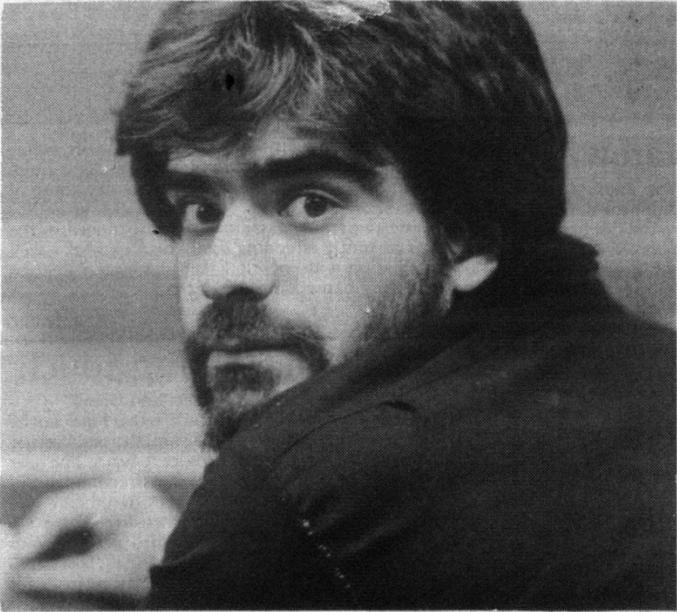


Photo Ray Giguere

Oscar Ammar: "The actions taken against the forum were by me and a few others who believe Zionism is racism."

by Richard Watts

Oscar Ammar, who freely admits he was primarily responsible for the disruption of the Hillel forum, claims he was not seeking publicity.

Rather, the former president of the Arab Students' Association claims he was acting to protect the rights of Arab students to free speech on campus.

Ammar says in no way was the Arab Students' Association involved and he and the others responsible for the disturbance were acting alone and as individuals.

"The actions taken against the forum were by me and a few others who believe that Zionism is racism," said Ammar.

Ammar says members of Hillel have infringed on the rights of Arab students by preventing them from

distributing their own political literature.

Ammar is referring to the disruption of the Arab Students' Association booth set up in SUB to distribute literature outlining the political position in the Middle East.

Ammar also complains that members of Hillel have defaced the posters put up by the Arab students on campus. In addition Ammar says posters which he terms "hate literature" have been placed around campus.

"As long as the Arab students are not allowed their say on campus then I will make sure Hillel does not have that right," says Ammar.

Ammar also has complaints against SU VP internal Ray Conway for shutting down the booth of the Arab Students Association.

"Conway did the wrong thing," said Ammar. "Why should the Arab students be punished for something when they are the victims of a crime."

Conway regrets shutting down the booth of the Arab Students' Association but says he felt at the time it was the best way to stop a brawl from occurring.

Conway said after speaking with members of the Arab Students' Association everyone agreed it would be better to shut down the booth rather than risk an outbreak of violence.

SU President Robert Greenhill also regrets the incident when the Arab Students' booth was shut down but also supports Conway's decision to shut it down to prevent a fight.

"I think it is a shame but for obvious reasons we could not risk any outbreak of violence in the Students' building and in that respect Ray did the right thing," said Greenhill.

Greenhill also said he had told the president of Hillel that in future any students found disturbing the rights of the Arab Students' Association would lose their membership in the Students' Union and all SU privileges.

"It's not a threat to Hillel the group, it's directed at those individuals who might create any disturbances," said Greenhill.

However Ammar says he has exhausted all regular channels without satisfaction and now feels it necessary to act on his own.

"I don't like to resort to the methods I used (in disrupting Hillel's forum) but I will continue to resort to them as long as they continue to infringe on the rights of the Arab students," said Ammar.

"I will continue to make things difficult for them (Hillel) as long as they continue to make things hard for the Arabs," he said. "Either both sides have free and equal say or neither side should have their say."

SU breaking the law Committee spawns another

by Ken Lenz

A committee, struck last September to determine the political role of the Students' Union, handed down its first report at the last Students' Council meeting.

The committee's basic decision was that another bigger committee should be struck to deal with the problem.

The committee was struck back in September after Students' Council defeated the motion which would see the SU publicly condemn the State of Israel and the Christian Phalangists for the massacres at the Chatilla and Sabra refugee camps.

Says SU president Robert Greenhill, "Many of the councillors voted against the motion, not because they did not personally support it, but because many of them thought the motion did not lie within the boundaries of the SU purpose, as is set out in the constitution."

The SU Constitution outlines the purpose of the SU as "the promotion of the general welfare of the students consistent with the purpose of the University."

Although this statement is vague and ambiguous no other SU executive or Council has ever felt the need to define explicitly their political dimensions.

The SU as part of its permanent policy supports the legalization of

Marijuana, condemns the ruling government in El Salvador, objects to the imposition of martial law in Poland, calls for a restoration of democracy in Chile, and demands the release of all political prisoners in South Africa.

Says Greenhill, "It may even be illegal for the SU to speak on behalf on the students, that ambiguous clause in our constitution is also enshrined in the Universities Act."

Greenhill continued, "The first purpose of the new committee will be to determine whether we have the legal right, then Students' Council will have to use its discretion in regards to specific issues."

The first committee recommended the next committee seek legal advice from a judge to help interpret the political boundaries of the Students' Union.

"I think it is absolutely essential that we make these statements (of a political nature) but if we cannot then, at least we inform students of political issues in the world," says Greenhill.

Greenhill was referring to the SU sponsorship of speakers to do speeches and seminars at the university for the benefit of students.

It is expected the report will be finished before the end of the Greenhill executive's term but if it is not it could become a key issue in the election of next year's SU executive.

BAZ

by SKEET and Nielsen



Olivia Butti's Diary

Dear Diary:

Oh, Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh. I'm so angry I'm speechless. I...L...I just can't control myself. This is the most horrible, horrible thing that ever happened to me.

I just found out that the student newspaper at the U of A has been humiliating me twice a week. That Gayway or whatever has been running a scurrilous imitation of my diary. My diary, diary! Do you know what that means? My most secret, private thoughts ridiculed for the amusement of pimply faced chemistry students and dope smoking leftists.

Oh my God. It's happening now. It must be: if this were really me I could never be so articulate.

Diary, diary, oh diary. What has been happening to me? What will happen to me next? Who is this cruel svengali who plays with my soul as if it were a puppet? Actually diary, I wish I could be this well spoken in council meetings. I do tend to grope for words. Is it a man or a woman? How can I fight against an opponent who controls my own mind? Why am I asking so many silly questions?

There, see, see? He's doing it again. He's making a fool of me. God only knows what other inane, brainless, feeble-witted, idiotic, addleheaded, lunkheaded, blockish, clodish, vapid, vacuous, vacant things I've said. I mean that other person has made me say. Oh, help me, someone help me please.

I'm Henery the eighth I am, Henery the eighth, I am I am / I got married to the widow next door / she's been married seven times before. Did I say all that or did I sing it? What do all those slashes mean? And anyway, it isn't Henery it's Henry. Maybe this guy isn't so shit hot after all.

Shit hot? I would never say something so vulgar. He tricked me! Is there no end to this madness?

Why doesn't the Greatway just stop him? What sort of sleazeball editor would allow such filth in his newspaper. Remember, I'm an important person and shouldn't be subjected to such harrassment. I'm an alderwife. I'm a civic leader. I'm a wife, mother and homemaker. I'm a toastmistress. I'm a campaigner against the decline of public morals. I'm a little teapot, short and stout / here is my handle here is my spout.

Why doesn't he show himself? Let me fight him fair. I'll shove burnt hot dogs down his throat. I'll crack his skull with dope smoking paraphernalia. I'll bury him under city hall, wherever they build it. I'll...no, not this time. If I try saying one more thing I know it will be something stupid.

Was that what he wanted me to say? It must be if I said it. Whoever writes this is a skunk and a snake and a heel and a ratty no good crumb-bum. Why did he let me say that? Let me try again: you rotten son of a....

Besides which, diary, when I'm mayoratrix of Edmonton I'll make all the hookers work for free in the veterans' home every Sunday. No, no, no! That's not what I wanted to say. I was trying to call whoever he is a no good son of a....

Now, I'm not saying June Cavanaugh is cheating on Terry but I don't understand why she has had to have her sink fixed every day this week. Oh what's the use? This is almost as bad as Olive Elliot's column. Everything I say is twisted into foolishness...I never wanted to go into politics anyway. I wanted to be....a lumberjack! Oh I'm a lumberjack and I'm okay I sleep all night and I work all day....