

# Nazi-hunter pursues war criminals

By Hugh Westrup

Only hours after the arrest of her husband at an anti-Nazi demonstration in Cologne, Germany last Thursday, Beate Klarsfeld spoke before a crowded York lecture hall about her mission to expose the hidden remnants of Hitler's Germany.

Thursday was the fortieth anniversary of the "Kristallnacht", the first mass attack by the Nazis on German Jews, during which synagogues were burned, windows smashed, shops looted and homes set afire. Klarsfeld's husband was arrested for demonstrating in front of the residence of Kurt Lischak, the man who orchestrated the mass arrest of German Jews following the "Crystal Night".

The arrest was not the first for the Klarsfelds who have campaigned relentlessly to expose untried Nazi war criminals

In her address, sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation and CYSF, Klarsfeld, a German gentile, said the German people have "specific responsibilities stemming from the death of

millions caused by the Germans thirty years ago. It is not a collective guilt, chiefly for the young generations but a historic and moral responsibility."

She said the German people should reject the rehabilitation of Nazi criminals, refuse to allow former active Nazis into contemporary politics, and defend the Jewish people wherever they are persecuted.

Klarsfeld admitted that until she moved from Germany to France at the age of twenty-one in the early sixties, she knew very little of the Nazi war crimes. When she did learn about the atrocities



Beate Klarsfeld at York

committed between 1933 and 1945, she decided it was not enough for herself to provide sympathy and perform symbolic acts like planting trees in Israel.

"I decided instead to act according to the compulsory moral guidelines in which I believe," she said.

Her first action, in 1966, was to protest the election of Kurt Kiesinger as German Chancellor. Kiesinger was a Nazi member and deputy-director of Hitler's radio propaganda for foreign countries. Following the protest, Klarsfeld was immediately expelled from her job in Paris, but continued to mobilize German youth against Kiesinger until his electoral defeat three years later.

Since then, Klarsfeld has remained true to her message that "the Nazi state must be incessantly pursued, judged and condemned for this genocide." She and her husband have performed an extraordinary amount of work to this end.

They have collected a huge number of Nazi documents,

written books, traced former SS members and compiled a list of the names of the 80,000 French Jews who were victimized by the Nazis.

Klarsfeld said she prefers to act "where the enemy stands, in the lion's mouth, rather than to express ideas in a meeting hall."

One demonstration last summer was a public exposure of Ernst Heinrichsohn, who assisted the chief of the anti-Jewish section of the Gestapo in France. Three weeks later Heinrichsohn was indicted.

Klarsfeld pointed out the cruel irony of her husband's arrest in the most recent demonstration. "It is striking that we, the anti-Nazis, are in jail while the Nazi criminals remain free," she said.

The Klarsfelds have acted not only against past crimes but also in combating the rise of neo-Nazism in Europe. They attend neo-Nazi meetings and recently published a scientific refutation of the neo-Nazi arguments that Hitler was not responsible for the Final Solution and that the gas chambers never existed.

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## You may be living illegally in North York

By Paul Stuart

If you live in an apartment or flat with someone you're not related to—and you're living in North York—you're breaking the law.

Namely North York by-law 7625. The by-law, passed in 1952, limits the occupancy of "family dwellings" to:

"A group of two or more persons living together and inter-related by bonds of consanguinity, marriage or legal adoption..." It permits "non-paying guests and domestic servants; a property owner to live with two unrelated people, and not more than three foster children under the care of a children's aid society..."

But if you're renting an apartment with other students, or you're living with someone you're not

married to...Then a nasty neighbor can complain to North York's by-law enforcement officer and cause you a lot of trouble. Fortunately, few complaints are made.

The by-law is currently before the Supreme Court of Canada because North York controller Barbara Greene decided to test it before a judge.

Mayor Mel Lastman recently told Excalibur that he doesn't think "it makes sense in this day and age to say that people can't live common-law." He acknowledged the danger that somebody who "just doesn't like you, or who doesn't like Jews or blacks or Chinese," can have the object of his dislike prosecuted.

But for now, he says, it's out of the borough's hands.

"If only Greene would stop fighting it in the courts, we could change it," he said.

Greene called Lastman's remark "a lot of nonsense," and said that the mayor "changes his mind every year on the issue."

"I think the borough council should handle the roads and the health and welfare system. But the whole point of our argument is that the borough doesn't have the right to determine the social composition of a neighbourhood," she added.

Greene said that one judge who dealt with the by-law remarked "that's not planning, it's family planning."

Whether the controversial section of the by-law is overturned in court or repealed by council,

North York may well keep some kind of restrictions on rental accommodation in force, because there is evidently a concern among some candidates and representatives that boarding houses will open up if there are no restrictions at all.

"I don't want boarding houses with six cars per house," said Lastman. "Where do you put the cars? We could end up with the congestion problems of the city."

Greene said the borough could use other by-laws to deal with that problem.

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