

Arab-Jewish debate

Dear Sir,
 "In search of historical facts."
 Howard Cooper's article in October 20, 1981 in the *Gateway* about the so-called Middle-Eastern misconception is both emotional and arrogant in its tone. He is either misinformed or deliberately trying to twist the facts. Mr. Cooper claims that "neither myself nor any dictionary has any grasp of what the word Arabism means". It seems that Mr. Cooper has learned his lesson well from a Zionist dictionary, which denies the existence of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Cooper's statement goes even further and denies the existence of the Arabs as a whole. The Webster's dictionary defines Arabism as follows: 1) Arabism is a characteristic feature of Arabic occurring in other languages; 2) Arabism is a devotion to Arab interests, customs, culture, ideas and ideals.

Mr. Cooper asserts that Jews themselves failed to arrive at a unified definition of what the term Jew means. He refers, as well, to the Jews who were exiled 2000 years ago. I find his logic however, very contradictory; while he admits the difficulty of defining a Jew, he takes it for granted that the Jews of today are the descendants of the same Jews who were exiled 2000 years ago.

The Webster's dictionary defines the word Jew as follows: 1) a Jew is a member of the nation existing in Palestine from the 6th century B.C. to the 1st century A.D. within which the elements of Judaism largely developed; 2) a Jew is a person whose religion is Judaism.

Mr. G. Neuberger, a Jew and once the President of the Agudath Israel World Youth Organization, defines a Jew, as anyone who has a Jewish mother, or who converted to Judaism in conformity with HALACHAH, Jewish religious law.

William Koestler (1976) in his book "The Thirteenth Tribe"

divides the Jews into two groups, according to their origin. The Ashkenazi Jews and the Sephardic Jews.

The origin of the Sephardic Jews (about half a million altogether) may be traced to the Middle East. Interestingly enough they show Semitic physical features, and there is no way to distinguish them from the Muslims and the Christian Arabs.

This however, is not the case with Ashkenazi Jews (around 11 million). They are traced to the Khazars: a people of Turkish stock who occupied an area between the Black and Caspian Seas, a territory which is now a part of the Soviet Union. The Khazars, originally pagans, were at one time a great nation. In 740 A.D. King Bulan together with his court and his entire military ruling class, embraced the Jewish faith and Judaism became the religion of the state. They had their own language, which to this day is known as Yiddish. I hope therefore, that Mr. Cooper becomes aware of these firmly established historical facts.

As for the issue of the Israeli

torture of the Arabs in the occupied Palestine, I would like to refer Mr. Cooper to the "Treatment of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza", a Report of the National Lawyers Guild 1977 Middle East Delegation, New York 1978. This report elaborates on the various atrocities committed by the Israeli occupying forces.

Furthermore, Mr. William Zuckerman, the editor of the "Jewish Newsletter" (New York), reported in Oct. 16, 1961 that the oriental Jews and the Arabs inside Israel "have been subject to a series of discriminations and persecutions, which would shock the civilized world, if they were fully known".

Professor Israel Shahak, the Chairman of the Israeli League for Human Rights, wrote in late 70's "In my opinion, the Israeli occupation regime in the conquered territories is not only not a liberal one; it is in fact one of the most cruel and repressive regimes in modern times".

Yours faithfully,
 Sabti Hmeidan
 Grad Studies

Golden Bears attacked

Once again we take our lives into our hands to protest intercollegiate sports. No personal insults are intended, even though we've spent the last month trying to find a Golden Bear football fan.

After helping to buy the team practice jock straps, we were all psyched up to go see a game. Unfortunately, we decided the excitement would be too much and instead stayed home to watch some paint dry. Besides, the two of us would have looked pretty stupid in an empty stadium with our pom-poms! It appears the days of the college glee club have faded into history, though the Phys-Ed Department still hasn't clued in to the fact.

We appreciate the great talent possessed by most intercollegiate athletes however, if they went home and did it in front of a mirror, twice as many people would be watching!

Rather than spending our hard earned money on inter-murals, which benefit many of the "dumb-shits" (like ourselves) that contribute the money, we're pleased to know that the UAB is

spending the money on more worthy things, for example, buying a forest worth of hockey sticks for the men's hockey team never thinking that the women's team needs them too!

We're glad that the Golden Bear teams are such great ambassadors for our university; surely swilling beer and pinching bottoms is what we stand for. Imagine, the idea of sending the debating club!!! Why, half of those wimps couldn't beat their way out of a wet paper bag, and barely any of them have mastered the "grunt" yet.

We really aren't opposed to intercollegiate sports but rather we wished they'd stay down in the States where we wouldn't have to pay for them. However, since this will never happen, we'd at least like to see a more equitable funding program where the smaller and "less important" (in the UAB's opinion) teams do not suffer from underfunding.

John Rotten
 Eng 4
 Bill Brucite
 Eng 3

Rhetoric analyzed

A Reply/Comment to a letter by Mr. Howard Cooper, Arts IV, entitled Middle-East Misconceptions, which appeared in *The Gateway*, Tuesday, October 21, 1981.

Dear Sir (Mr. Cooper):

Your letter of Tuesday does demonstrate your reasonably good grasp of rhetoric. Essentially, you do cleverly accuse Mr. Oscar Ammar of being highly opinionated; however, you should realize that your letter is the most opinionated of the two. Read them both again — now — before you continue reading this one.

In your righteous determination to diminish the clarity of Mr. Ammar to "silly double-talk" you have reduced yourself to an *argumentum ad hominem*. I doubt that this was your sincere intent, but nevertheless it should be pointed out to you.

Mr. Ammar's use of the word 'Arabism' is not difficult to understand, whether or not it can be found in any of several dic-

tionaries. It was used and explained in terms of a general definition — not such a hard act to follow, really, unless one personally dislikes the writer. In its context, the term 'Arabism' was meaningful. Therefore, you are wrong in your approach from the outset.

It would have been far better for you to have used a fair approach to answer Mr. Ammar's comments without demeaning Mr. Ammar, the person.

One could go on to systematically and analytically reduce your numerous criticisms to nil and to further discredit your self-perceived sense of logic. But this reduction of myself and possibly many others would not be appropriate — regardless of the issues themselves.

I implore you please, in the future, to use your skill of rhetoric in an honest manner that is congruous with the notion of academic propriety, sirrah.

Irvin van Otterlo
 Arts III

Respect for memory

Dear Sir:

Terry Fox was a hero in every possible sense of the word. That, is a simple fact acknowledged by millions of people all over North America. His existence brought a warmth to our lives in a way none of us are ever likely to experience again.

The way in which his name was used in the *Gateway* of last Tuesday, degrades not only his name and everything he stood for, but also maligns each and every person who respected this incredible individual.

It is difficult to discern your motive in using Terry Fox's name in the manner you did. Needless to say, you showed a disgusting lack of judgement and an obvious lack of intelligence.

You owe a very sincere apology to the memory of an utterly fantastic man. This will not raise your worth in my eyes at least, but it may aid you in reclaiming some form of dignity.

Brian Lang-Hodge
 Science I

more letters on page 6

Gateway staff meeting
 all staff welcome
 Thursday at 4 pm
 Room 282 SUB

Sexism, eh?

In response to the lead article of Oct. 20/81, "Sexism Is Alive And Well In U" I must say I'm a little confused. The fact that fifty women are allowed to congregate anywhere, let alone Carleton University, to denounce men certainly demonstrates they can pretty well get away with anything they damn well please.

Kerry Burke, fieldworker for Ontario Fed. of Students, cites heterosexism (don't knock it unless you've tried it) as being a problem of lesbians and gays too. This, I'm certain, is not a problem at the University of Alta. Some of my best friends tell me that some of the friends of their best friends are...

Ms. Burke condemns (sic) what she calls the "tools of culture"; one being, a "phenomenon of rape and violence" whose purpose she asserts is to deter women from forming in groups. I can't think of any man who would condone the molesting of any peacable sewing-bee or recipe-swap session.

Ms. Burke is showing signs of being paranoid. (sic).

B. Onishenko
 Ed. 4

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