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OPINION...

Airport security

by MELYNDA JARRATT

This summer we were all witness to the tragic effects of international terrorism when a flight originating out of Athens International Airport became the focus of a two-week hijacking and hostage-taking incident. When combined with the powerful draw of television, theis flight showed us to what depths the media can sink to in order to sell a story and it not only stirred up a lot of con-seriously. It is precisely this attroversy as to the role of the media in times of crisis, but it familiar scenes of terror at Euroalso raised an awareness in all of us who travel by air as to the question of airport security. were no laughing matter as literally thousands of American tourists cancelled their travei plans in Greece in response to a travel advisory given by the President of the United States which cited a definite lack of security at the Athens airport as the main culprit behind the hijacking. Speaking with American tourists in Europe this summer, I was shocked and dismayed by their unfortunate predicament...fear had replaced the usual flair with which they spend a two-week vacation in the playground of the Mediterranean. Despite the strength of the American dollar overseas and especially in Southern Europe, many chose to stay away from 3/4 Athens rather than risk an unexpected side trip to some Middle Eastern country whose politics and language they don't undersand

anyhow. Sitting back here in the relative comfort of our Canadian shores, free for the moment anyway from the fear of hijackings, I can't help but wonder why we do not take lessons from incidents such as this. Although we may not consider ourselves to be in any real danger, the question of security precautions in Canadian airports is something that we should consider a bit more titude which resulted in the pean airports. In an age when the fate of literally thousands of airline passengers lies in the Certainly, caution and security, hands of an alert security cres, it is inconceivable that a person can literally strut past X-ray equipment and security guards without so much as a raised eyebrow...but that is exactly what I did last Saturday night on my way to Halifax via Eastern Provincial Airlines. Yessiree, I just strode right past all the precautionary equipment which is installed for the explicit purpose of being USED.

> Laugh if you may, as you remind yourself, that, after all, this IS New Brunswick where the only major incidents have included an intoxicated man smashing through the glass windows of the Fredericton Airport entrance, and the only real media interest took place over a bag of marijuana. It seems that the security crew at the airport only takes a real interest in a passenger's safety when that

passenger happens to be the Queen of England. But laugh as you will, just as the normally sedate Norwegians did this past summer when on June 21 an equally as sedate fellow Norwegian hijacked a domestic flight to Oslo over a six-pack of beer, thus paving the way for Norway's first ever hijacking.

As a stewardess said to me upon my enquiry, "...at the little airports they think that it will never happen to them...it's always the other guy, the bigger airports that have to deal with the threat on a day to day basis....' And as the security guard at the Halifax International Airport said to me as my bags went through the X-Ray machine, "...we are supposed to check everybody who enters a plane...", but how can you when you have leaks in the sytem such as this, as she pointed towards a group of embarking passengers who were simply walking out of a side door towards the tarmac.

The most important lesson to be learned from hijackings and the like is that no airport is safe from a determined terrorist or even a drunk who just happens to have what looks like a gun. With that in mind, I ask you to think a little more about this question of airport security at the Fredericton Airport. Let us hope that a potential tragedy can be averted with the postive insight of a few administrative

The damage is done

By BARRY PARKINSON Brunswickan Staff

(Note: This article was written over the summer. That is it being published at this late date is a problem...but then, life is difficult, isn't it?)

Summer in Alberta continues apace. This week there were two rather newsworthy events: first, the beer strike is over, after more than 2 months. Personally, I didn't suffer too much, having access to a stash of Molson Malt. Still, it is nice to be back on sure footing. Second, the Keegstra hate-trial is officially over.

The guilty verdict and sentencing came through earlier today. (Actually, it was yesterday, this being a smallhours-of-the-morning column...new sleeping arrangements, and so forth.) While this will hardly be news in October, there are some aspects of the case which will be around for a long time.

One thing that is interesting is the general principal involved. While Zundel and Keegstra were charged under different laws, the freedom of expression idea plays heavily in both cases.

Now, maybe there is some kind of conspiracy going on. Maybe it's Zionist / world government; maybe it's Francophone / linguistic dominadrones. "In an infinite least the first two theories. Nevertheless, people should have the right to speak their minds.

In the Keegstra incident, though, the guy was preaching to his students - a captive audience with a certain amount of faith in Keegstra's credentials. A bad scene. Keegstra, I believe, continued on page 10 was rightfully found guilty.

The Zundel case is more difficult. He simply spreads his ideas, disgusting and twisted as they may be. Can we afford to charge anyone with that?

Suppose I came out with a pamphlet which demands that all anti-semites be imprisoned. Is this Hate-"literature"? How does one hate "hate"? A weird paradox takes over at this point and we are forced, it tion; maybe it's IBM / Yuppie seems, to either take a "free speech uber alles" approach universe, anything is or set up rigid guidelines possible" (or something like about what is acceptable and that from the Hitch-Hiker's what is not (this is the pro-Guide.) I choose to reject at blem in the pornography debate as well.)

Ideally, Zundel should not have been hassled. But ideally, six million people should not have died. Denying genocide is criminal.

The law Keegstra was charged under deals with the