

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorials

1981 or 1492?

"Textbooks are Soviet propaganda. Textbooks are destroying our children. (We must) rise up in arms to throw out every textbook not reflecting (our) values."

— The Rev. Jerry Falwell, leader of Moral Majority.
The "New Right" book ban-wagon is gathering momentum and censorship has already begun around the nation. Why should the Moral Majority be allowed to inflict their ideologies on an entire nation comprised of many different groups?

This country was founded on the principles of freedom — freedom to worship as we please — freedom of speech — freedom of the press — freedom of choice.

The Moral Majority now rises upon the scene and is compiling lists of books and publications to be banned from our libraries and classrooms across the U.S. The saddest part is that these books are written by some of the world's finest authors and are now considered classics. Our state chairman of the Moral Majority said the lists, which will include books that ignore the biblical account of creation, should be ready this month and will be distributed to parents in communities with Moral Majority chapters.

Some of the books that have already been banned from libraries or classrooms across the nation are:

"Red Badge of Courage"	"A Farewell to Arms"
"To Kill a Mockingbird"	"Death of a Salesman"
"For Whom the Bell Tolls"	"Grapes of Wrath"
"Huckleberry Finn"	"Tom Sawyer"
"The Bell Jar"	"The Red Pony"
"The Pearl"	"1984"
"Animal Farm"	"The Good Earth"
"Catcher in the Rye"	"Catch-22"
"Brave New World"	"The Fixer"
"The Lottery"	"Working?"
"Flowers for Algernon"	"To Sir with Love"
"Up the Down Staircase"	"Of Mice and Men"
"Jaws"	"Saturday Night Fever"

Magazines banned include Time, Newsweek, Ms. and U.S. News & World Report.

Dictionaries banned include Doubleday Dictionary, Random House College Dictionary, American Heritage Dictionary, Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary and Webster's New World Dictionary of the English Language.

This list speaks for itself! They don't want our children to be taught **how** to think but want them to be taught **what** to think. Shades of yesteryear ... are we going back to the middle ages?

Survival

Our country has just witnessed the inauguration of a new president. We hope that he will have the strength and foresight to guide our nation through the difficult times which lie ahead. The events of recent months have been disturbing both at home and abroad. We have written and reported on stories in this newspaper of terrorism which has struck Jewish synagogues and buildings housing Jewish organizations throughout the United States and in France. We have reported on the growth in influence of the New Right and the resurgent activities of the Ku Klux Klan, the Khomeinis, the PLO, and other factors including the spiraling cost of living index.

The frightening trend of anti-Israel, anti-Jewish feeling in the United States is one to be dealt with. All of these events awaken us to the fact that vigilance on our part is necessary. We are afraid that once again the Jewish tragedy is not necessarily the world's tragedy or concern. We must stay in touch with our Congressmen and President Reagan. We must keep them constantly aware of the threat to our freedom and of Jews all over the world. They must never cease to negotiate with the international community for peace. We must also prepare our young people for the reality of the world around them and teach them that ultimately the Jew must rely on himself. We must impress upon them self-reliance and a strong Jewish consciousness. They and we must recognize that the survival of the State of Israel is essential to the survival of Jewish people all over the world.

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Torah Freedom and the Moral Crisis

by Rabbi Yoseph Groner

We bring here a short excerpt of an address by the Lubavitcher Rebbe commenting on the Torah solution for our current moral crisis. The address was delivered to a gathering of seven thousand Chassidim and supporters from around the world on the 25th anniversary of the Rebbe's leadership, Shvat 10, 5735 or January 22nd, 1975. At the gathering, accolades, awards, letters of greeting, keys to cities, etc., were presented to the Rebbe by a personal emissary of the President of the United States and by other dignitaries and representatives from around the globe. In response to these honors, the Rebbe spoke at length on the unique position, role and responsibility of America.

A great deal is heard lately of

the energy crisis, economic crisis, etc., and of ways and means to cope with them; but not enough about the spiritual and moral crisis.

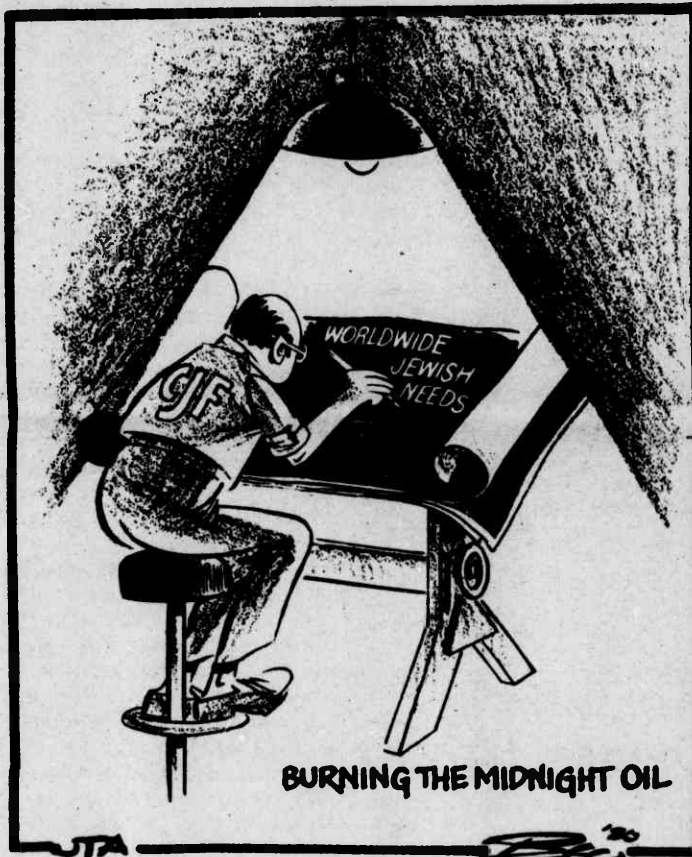
American history tells us that this nation was founded on the inalienable rights of men. First and foremost among these rights is the right of religious freedom. As everybody knows, the Pilgrims came to America to be able to practice their religion, free from persecution. The majority of the early settlers were religious refugees who firmly believed in G-d and in His word, the Bible. They were determined to foster this belief and to protect their right to bring up their children in the belief in G-d. (Parenthetically it may be added that all newborn nations and states, barring none, would do well to emulate the principles upon which the American nation was established.)

The belief in G-d which

brought the early Americans to these shores was not an abstract belief in a Supreme Being Whose Presence is confined to the Seventh Heaven. It was a belief that permeated every aspect of their everyday life, particularly the education of their children. It was this uncompromising belief that prompted and guided the founding fathers to formulate the Bill of Rights.

Times have changed, but the truth never changes. Yet, through circumstances which need not be delved into here, the spirit and letter of the Constitution on religious freedom has come to mean to some freedom from religion. We are witness to a sad phenomenon. Some well-meaning Americans, even some organizations, use the very same Bill of Rights in a way that is weakening and undermining the belief in G-d in American life. It has prevented financial aid, federal, state and local, to any educational institution where children are taught to believe in G-d. Even the mere mention of a Supreme Being in a brief non-denominational prayer to start the day off has been proscribed.

There can be no doubt that the intent of the founding fathers was to preserve religious freedom, not to deny it; to preserve religious equality, not to wean the nation away from G-d, G-d forbid. Juvenile delinquency and crime have become so rampant as to pose a serious threat to society. Clearly, a child who is brought up without fear of G-d in his heart will have no respect for a police officer. There is no substitute for restraining the child, unless he or she is brought up from infancy and throughout the formative years in the belief in the Supreme Being, Whose Providence extends to each and everyone individually at all times and in all places. Or, as the great teacher Maimonides expressed it: "The foundation of all foundations, and the pillar of all sciences, is to know that there is a Supreme Being, the Creator of all things that exist...."



Across The Editors' Desks

Reassess Award

We were quite pleased to hear that Sol Jaffa has been recognized for his work with BBYO. But the B'nai B'rith Human Relations Award? Really!! It seems to us that there appears to be some confusion as to what the award stands for ... is it in recognition of being a great humanitarian or is it being given lately as an additional award for dedicated volunteerism? We think B'nai B'rith should do some serious re-evaluation on their award categories.

— Names Withheld Upon Request

(Ed. note: The Human Relations Award is not given by B'nai B'rith. It is a local award established by the Charlotte Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women and has been given annually except for a couple of years when the group felt that the candidates recommended did not meet the criteria of the award. It was established in 1962 and has been given to many outstanding individuals, the first recipient being Ms. Bonnie Cone, one of the "spearheads" of UNCC. Some others have been Kays Gary, Mayor Stan Brookshire, Ty Boyd and the late Emma Lassiter.)

Thank You

Dear Rita & Ann:

I would like you to know how much I appreciate your taking on the job of editors. I know it is a thankless job, and I just wanted to let you know my personal feelings. I think you are doing the community an outstanding job.

Warmest regards,
Allan S. Oxman, CLU

To the Editors:

We extend our sincere thanks to those in our Jewish community who gave so selflessly of their time and energy in the annual Christmas Day substitution. The event, sponsored by Charlotte Lodge B'nai B'rith and Temple Israel Men's Club, was able to free up a significant number of positions at Presbyterian and Mercy Hospitals and Mecklenburg County Jail. This allowed some of our Christian brethren to spend their important day with their families.

Sincerely,
Murray Bodner, President
Temple Israel Men's Club
Michael Shapiro, President
Charlotte B'nai B'rith Lodge