

# This 'n That

Samuel Schiffman has been appointed director of employee relations at Gold Bond Building Products in Charlotte. In a newly created position, Mr. Schiffman will be responsible for labor relations and employee benefit programs.

Dottie Coplon was recently invited to Raleigh by Gov. Jim Hunt. This in itself was quite an honor, but she was also privileged to be one of six women to be interviewed by Mr. C. C. Hope, Jr., the N.C. Secretary of Commerce, for the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Economic Development of Women.

Making the Dean's List time again! Neil Hennes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Hennes, at N.C. State; Benjy Sutker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sutker, at UNC-CH; Randy Newman at Vanderbilt U. and Michael Newman at UNC-CH. Randy is a Junior and Michael a Freshman; both boys are the sons of Dr. and Mrs. Ed Newman.

Musically speaking....David Barman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Barman, has been selected to perform with The Charlotte Symphony Women's Association's Charlotte Wind Ensemble at a concert given at Queens College this Spring. He is also playing his tuba for the third year in a row with The South Central District N.C. All State Band.

Aleisa Fishman, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Fishman, has been selected to perform with the South Central District N.C. All State Band. She also played her clarinet at a concert in late January at Kings Mountain High School.

Scott Edlein, son of Mr. and Mrs. Saul Edlein, has been chosen first chair trumpet for the All State Band. He was also guest trumpeter at Christ Lutheran Church's Advent Services in December.

Dr. Robert Yudell has been elected Chief of Ophthalmology at Presbyterian Hospital.

Natalie (Mrs. Norman) Cohen has been named cochairperson of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Mecklenburg Chapter.

...the name Humphrey and Jackson are no more; that Israel's image as an underdog worthy of our compassion has changed to that of a bully strong enough to...



Elias Kaplan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaplan, has received his law degree from the University of Miami.

Dr. Robert Schwartz has been named secretary of the N.C. Pediatric Society.

Recently Helen Phillips won the 35 women's doubles division of the Southern Senior Indoor Closed Tennis Championship in Chattanooga, Tenn. She also won the singles consolation matches in her respective age division, 45 singles. She plans to go to the nationals (USTA Senior Women's National Championships) in April this year. She, along with her doubles partner, Carmina Diaz, are ranked No. 2 in the state in 35 doubles and No. 3 in the Southern region. Last year they were No. 1 in the Southern region.

Helen has been teaching tennis for nine years and spends between 25 and 30 hours a week at it. She tries to play in major N.C. and Southern tournaments—about 15 or so a year.

M/M Steve Lit, M/M Abe Luski, Mrs. Henrietta Meltsner, M/M John Pransky, M/M Michael Schreiberman, M/M Robert Speizman, Harry Swimmer, M/M Ralph Smith, Scott Gorelick, Jeff Gorelick, Pamela Gorelick, Todd Gorelick, Marcelle Gorelick, Rael Gorelick and Sen. Biden.

an elegant luncheon to the following "Pacesetters;" Bobbi Bernstein, Anita Blumenthal, Ruth Goldberg, Patty Gorelick, Renee Gorelick, Pearl Kier, G.G. Kosch, Gloria Lerner, Sandra Levine and Henrietta Meltsner. Annie

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# On The Issues

Jewish people are painfully familiar with negative stereotypes. All too often we have been the victims of characterizations and caricatures that attribute to us a variety of undesirable characteristics. We have lived for decades with the burden that Charles Dickens created in his masterpiece, "Oliver Twist:" Fagin, the receiver of stolen property; Fagin the thief and contributor to the delinquency of minors. We have suffered for centuries with William Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice." With that immortal classic he gave our language a name that became a word which is still in use today: Shylock.

In their dramatizations, both Fagin and Shylock have fallen victim to actors who sought to amplify their Jewish identity through exaggerations of costume, make-up, facial expression, vocal inflection, gesture and posture.

Such portrayals have become rare and more sympathetic interpretations have become current, thanks to the unflagging efforts of the Anti-Defamation League to eliminate such defamatory images. Indeed, it can be said that Shakespeare's masterwork supports a more humane portrayal than had been the fashion, for he had his creation, Shylock, speak those impassioned, unforgettable words: "I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same

winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?"

Insensitivity to the problem of defamatory stereotyping was illustrated recently by a throw-away comment written by a newspaper critic who observed: "Let's face it: Operatic baddies — like villains of films, TV, novels or dramas — have to be of SOME nationality, color or sex. And since operatic casts aren't made up exclusively of saints, somebody's sooner or later bound to be offended by an imagined identification with those baddies. Enough said."

A greater awareness of the sensibilities that were offended by the 1920's gangster-era setting for an English version of Rigoletto was demonstrated by the Virginia Opera Association. Responding to the protests it received, the following statement was inserted in the opera program: "The VOA's production of RIGOLETTO is not intended to portray Italian-Americans as mobsters or gangsters. The VOA regrets any negative connotation which might be drawn from the production."

Richmond was spared the



Ira Gissen, Director NC/VA Region Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

advertising that had been published previously in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, which featured an illustration of a mobster brandishing a Tommy gun. But the illustration also appeared in the program distributed to the audience. The negative ethnic stereotyping was dismissed by the same critic with the gratuitous comment: "... it was unfortunate that the VOA felt compelled to include in its programs a flier disclaiming any intent to offend anybody."

Clearly, defamatory images of nationalities, religion or races are not always promulgated by hate-mongers. Their offensiveness may be quite unintentional. But they hurt. They distort the perception of us all.

Our struggle against group defamation must go on.



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