



Marginal Comment

By Melvin Jensen

The opinions expressed in this column represent the point of view of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position pro or con of The Jewish Post. The Jewish Post welcomes your opinion and will be pleased to publish any comments on pertinent subjects. Our columns are open to you, the reader. Please use them!

There occasionally arise in Canada issues relating to the objectivity of journalists employed by newspapers or the CBC dealing with Middle East issues when the journalist is a Jew.

A similar interesting issue arose in England recently in connection with BBC reporting on the Middle East by Michael Elkins, a Jerusalem resident for many years and author of the widely-read saga of Jewish survivors of Hitler's death camp, *Forged in Fury*.

The September 25 issue of the BBC publication *The Listener* carries a letter to the editor from Charles Curran, Director-General of the BBC, replying to the criticism previously made in a letter to that effect: "If it can be demonstrated that he is, in fact, a dedicated and extreme Zionist, then it would follow that his reporting is unlikely to be objective, and hence that it is unwise for the BBC to use him as their correspondent at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Mr. Curran replied: "The proposition is one which I cannot accept. Our criterion of whether Mr. Elkins is an acceptable correspondent is whether his reports are accurate and whether events prove them to be so. On that basis, Mr. Elkins has been unchallengeable. I have been subjected to representations about his objectivity ever since I became Director of External Broadcasting in 1967, and I am very well aware of the book he wrote about Zionism. I have never yet found any reason to doubt his journalistic integrity, despite the keenness with which his work has been scrutinized as a result of that public declaration of his commitment. It will be a sad day when the BBC has to judge the work of its editorial staff according to his personal political commitments, and not according to what they actually do in the service of the BBC."

This past Monday (CKND Channel 9) carried an interesting dialogue on the subject of the Holocaust by Winnipeg Rabbi Neal Rose of the Department of Middle Eastern and Judaic Studies at the University of Manitoba, and by Father Gregory Baum, on the Faculty of Theology at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. Gregory Baum, as is well known, was born a Jew, and became a Catholic priest serving as advisor on ecumenical affairs to Archbishop Pocock of Toronto at a time when Pope John XXIII promoted the Vatican's radical and favourably received Schema revising traditional Catholic attitudes towards Judaism.

Both Rabbi Rose and Father Baum dealt with the implications for the world today of the Holocaust, not so much in the sense of a rote condemnation of Hitler and the Nazis, as in an examination of the conditioning of the world for such brutality by the established Christian church.

Father Baum said something which has rarely been said by a Christian — that in the Catholic Church's isolation of the Jews for particularly unfavourable attention both in the New Testament and in treatment throughout succeeding generations, the church in effect made a marginal people out of the Jews. Father Baum further stressed the fact that whereas the Catholic Church admittedly dealt in an adversary manner with other faiths, it stigmatized Judaism in a special way, viewing it as a kind of dead end, a state of arrested spiritual development. Shades of the late lamented Arnold Toynbee and his *Fossil!* As a result of this special view of the church towards Judaism, Father Baum concluded that this placed the Jews vis-a-vis such nominal Christians as Nazis in an extremely vulnerable position. He inferred that guilt for the Holocaust must be shared equally by the church for its past sins.

I have always had a kind of gut feeling that Father Baum was unwittingly playing a minor role of a latter day Esther, (although she unlike Baum never surrendered her Jewish identity).

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— THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK —



Submitted by
RABBI A. ALTEIN
Ashkenazie Synagogue



Adapted from the works of
RABBI M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch Rabbi

Rabbi Schneerson
Sidra Vayetze

Rabbi A. Altein

"THE LABOR OF YOUR HANDS"

This week's Sidra tells how Jacob left the peace and security of Beersheba, where he had lived a life of Torah-Study and prayer, and set out on the journey to Haran, to his deceitful uncle Laban. On the way, Jacob lay down to rest and arranged some rocks around his head to protect himself from wild beasts.

A question arises in one's mind. If Jacob was afraid of being harmed by wild animals, why didn't he surround his entire body with stones? If, on the other hand, he trusted in G-d to protect him, why then did he encircle his head?

The significance of Jacob's encircling his head may be found in a Chassidic interpretation of the verse in "Hillim (Psalms) "If you will eat of the labor of your hands, happy will you be, and it will be well with you." The emphasis in this verse is on the labor "of your hands." Working for a livelihood, whatever form the work may take, can be in one of two ways:

The labor of one's hands, when one works faithfully with his hands (or any other part of his body necessarily involved in the work) yet does not submerge his entire personality in his occupation. His mind remains free, and even during business hours his thoughts often center around those matters that are close to his inner self.

The second way is the "labor of one's head", when one's mind is totally preoccupied with his business affairs. He has no time for family, for friends, or even for himself; his whole being is completely absorbed in his business.

Jacob knew that he was leaving the Yeshiva environment of Beersheba, leaving a life of Torah-study and prayer, a life of holiness, a life of spirituality, and heading for a diametrically opposite kind of life. He was destined to be Laban's shepherd, to be constantly occupied with his task day and night. As Jacob himself later said: "... by day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from my eyes." Jacob therefore endeavored to protect his head — i.e. not to lose himself entirely in his occupation, but to keep his mind free to dwell on higher things on the Torah-study and prayer that were so dear to him.

Rabbi Shmuel of Lubavitch of sainted memory enjoined his followers to occupy their minds with Torah thoughts whenever they walked in the street. One businessman asked the Rebbe in amazement how such a difficult thing was humanly possible. Replied the Rebbe: "If it is possible to think business thoughts during 'Shemoneh Esray' (silent devotional prayer) ... then it is possible to have thoughts of Torah and prayer in the street!"

Adapted by Y. M. Kagan.

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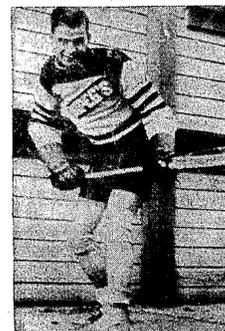


A Nostalgic Look At the Jewish Athlete

by Leibel Hershfield



CANUCK LACROSSE CLUB—WINNIPEG JUVENILE CHAMPS, 1919
TOP: O. Kertzer, M. Wysocki, A. Fulton, M. Triller, N. Charach;
MIDDLE: C. W. Laidlaw, M. Steinkopf, J. H. Mulvey, C. Shepera;
BOTTOM: M. Choslovsky, S. Sheps, J. Wolch, S. Abrams, R. Steuart.



TEDDY BASS

Lacrosse was a sport in which Jewish boys did not participate to any great extent. In the north end lacrosse was played at Aberdeen, Norquay, Machray and Lord Selkirk schools. The boys at Strathcona school were not allowed to play this game as W. J. Sisler, principal, stressed that it was too rough and concentrated instead on teaching the boys the finer points of football.

One of the early lacrosse teams in Winnipeg was the 1905 Argyle school team. Jewish players on this team were John Weidman, Dave Abremovitch and Mike Rosenthal, all instrumental in the winning of the public school title that year.

The next school team to win the championship was Norquay in 1918-19. In 1919 the Canuck lacrosse team won the juvenile series championship. Players on this team were: Mesho Triller, Nate Charach, Chick Choslovsky, Sam Sheps, Dady Wolch, Sam Abrams, Phil Sheps, Nate Lexter. Max

Steinkopf, honorary president, and Con Shapira, life member.

In the days after World War I, lacrosse was played at old Sherburn Park at Sherburn and Portage Ave. Jewish players were the late Pat Narvolansky and Babe Coval, who toiled for the Winnipeg Tigers in 1928.

The best all-round Jewish lacrosse player was classy Teddy Bass. He was a star member of the Senior League at an early age, and excelled for the YMHA and Irish football teams. At a five-a-side soccer tournament at Winnipeg Beach the Maroon Athletic club won the Manitoba Cup from a CPR team. Team members were: Teddy Bass, Taffy and Tubber Kobrinsky, and Dave Fainstein.

This same club developed such great lacrosse players as Lou Grant, Oscar Blank, Lou Litman, Leo Fletcher, Ben Trute, Phat Weiner, Aaron Dozar, Lou Cramer, Jack Barsky, Jack Sector, Jack Perlmutter, Ruby Shusterove, Eddy Rosenblatt and Barney Gutnick.

Then there was Lou Roberts who starred in lacrosse and track and field. He played for the YMHA Manitoba champions in 1926 and was a member of the roller hockey team at old River Park.

From 1920 to 1928 one family was very prominent in lacrosse and dominated the game in the city. This was the Linderman family, boys who were natural athletes. They took to the game of lacrosse like a fish to water. They handled lacrosse sticks as if they were part of their bodies! It would be very interesting to know if there is any of their family still living in Winnipeg.

Tel Aviv (JTA) — A majority of Israelis are satisfied with the new accord with Egypt, a public opinion poll for Yediot Achronot showed.

BOWLING NEWS Histadrut Campaign Aims To Benefit Amal Schools

Lady Gayers bowling highs for Oct. 27: Paula Stone 521 (210), Blumie Portnoy 516, Carole Jeffries 476, Faye Stedman 475, Shirley Cham 471, Maxine Benditt 468, Tommy Schachter 463, Sandy Laine 458, Lois Wolch 457, Rose Zimberg 455. Highs for Nov. 3: Bea Kaplan 521, Shirley Cham 512, Maxine Benditt 506, Blumie Portnoy 486, Phyllis Spigelman 481, Lois Wolch 478, Gert Ludwick 466, Carole Jeffries 461, Randy Schwartz 452, Audrey Zimmerman 450, Donna Finkelstein 450.

Gateway Mixed bowling highs for Oct. 26: Jerome Avery 548 (213, 199), Mendel Rosenfield 522 (202), Marvin Kass 503, Carl Zawatsky 502 (213), Harvey Appelle (222), Dave Abosh (208), Jack Etkin (201), women — Leslie Abosh 461. Highs for Nov. 2: men — Carl Zawatsky 525, Marvin Kass 516, Ron Cantor 516, Mendel Rosenfield 513 (204), Joe McMullin 501 (202), Harvey Appelle 500 (203); women — Sunny Kaminsky 481, Shirley Pauley 478, Sadie Wolfson 454.

German Support Ebbs

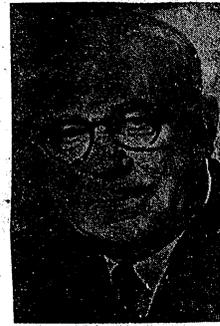
Jerusalem — Israeli correspondents who accompanied General Rabin on his trip to West Germany were surprised and shocked to hear the average German declare his outright opposition to more German commitments on Israel's behalf.

A school teacher in Berlin said "we have already given enough money to wipe out the crimes of the past." A Bonn editor said: "Our economy hinges on a continued supply of oil, our interest demands a continued detente all over the world, in Europe, Asia and the Middle East," and Government officials calmly stressed that the traditional "special relationship" which had existed between Israel and Germany, has now given place to "a normal relationship with a special character."

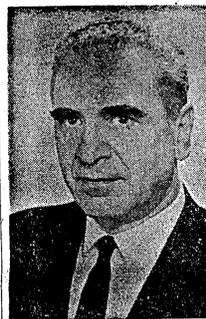
In his talks with West German leaders, General Rabin was told the same thing in a diplomatic way: "The days of automatic German support for Israel were over."



JACK MARKSON



YAKIR FREEDMAN



LEON MITCHELL, Q.C.

Amal Schools are a network of vocational high schools in Israel giving students a combined academic and practical high school education, and this year's Histadrut campaign will try to supply 500 scholarships for them.

Due to the economic situation in Israel the government cannot subsidize high schools and is forced to cut back subsidies to the ninth grade. An estimated 500,000

children are now attending elementary grades, of which a predicted 300,000 will leave school at the end of grade eight; many families will be unable to pay for their children's high school education.

This year the Histadrut will lend its efforts entirely to securing the funds to help young Israelis continue their education in Amal Vocational High Schools. Last year the Canadian Histadrut provided more than 6,000 scholarships (worth \$250,000), and this year's goal is double that amount.

Yakir Freedman, national vice-president of the Histadrut Campaign visited the Amal Schools and reported that the training there was excellent, and those graduating were quickly absorbed into the economic life of Israel.

This year Canadian Friends of Amal will honor Leon Mitchell, Q.C., a past chairman of the Israel Histadrut Campaign who has devoted much time and effort to secure more scholarships for those youngsters of Israel unable to continue their education without help.

A testimonial dinner honoring Mr. Mitchell will be held Dec. 14. Tickets may be obtained from any of the canvassers, or by phoning 942-0785.

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