

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

**LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE**  
OF NEVADA

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Editor and Publisher ..... Jack Tell  
BUSINESS MANAGER.....BEA TELL, 870-1255  
VEGAS NEWS.....HELENE STADLER, 384-3685  
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**TELL TALES**  
"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



*Viet Nam Letters*

TO BE CERTAIN THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, THE OBSERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY JACK TELL ARE HIS AND HIS ALONE, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE OPINIONS OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

**Editorial**  
*Religious Unity in U.S.*

At a symposium on Jewish ecumenism held last week in New York City under the sponsorship of "Judaism," scholarly quarterly published by the American Jewish Congress, there was complete unanimity among the participants -- Reform, Orthodox and Conservative rabbis and scholars -- on the need of religious unity in the American Jewish community but wide divergence of opinion on how to achieve it.

A Reform scholar, Professor Jakob J. Petuchowski of the Hebrew Union College, projected the idea that religious unity could be attained if believers accepted God's commandments but refrained from telling each other how to carry them out.

Similar views were aired by the Conservative spokesman, Rabbi Seymour Siegel of the Jewish Theological Seminary, who held that Jewish religious unity demanded not only a consensus of basic principles but also the right to differ on how these beliefs should be interpreted.

In essence both were a plea for tolerance. Dr. Irving Greenberg, associate professor of history at Yeshiva University, presented the Orthodox position. He too welcomed a thaw in the positions of the three main branches of Jewish religious life. He warned however that rejection of Halachic authority by the Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism, particularly with respect to the laws of marriage and divorce, was an insurmountable obstacle to such unity. He told the gathering that there was "real danger that in a generation or two Jews who take Halacha seriously will be unable to marry with a significant segment of Jews" who marry and divorce in civil law.

My religious credentials are hardly kosher enough to justify comment on such a dialogue, yet I will dare even though I may have my wings clipped.

From this corner it seems that the gentlemen did not define their terms sharply enough.

What is meant by Jewish religious unity? Since it cannot possibly mean obliteration of existing differences between the various segments of Judaism, it is an anomaly to speak of religious unity. Where there are differences there is bound to be disputation, dialogue, confrontation and quest for dominance of views. And where there is struggle for dominance there is bound to be friction, particularly when the issue is a religious and theological formulation.

If by religious unity is meant elimination of unnecessary zeal in the vying of each of the denominations for position in the American Jewish community, the objective is wholly laudable. No one is against tolerance. Religious disputes in the past have produced a bitterness for which the world today is still paying heavily. It is about time that religious men bury their hatchets when they confront each other in theological disputation.

No one can foretell the religious direction or orientation of American Jewry as it is headed for the new century that is thirty-four years away. The only thing certain is that its religious shape will be determined more by the emerging new values in the world than by rabbinic pronouncements emanating either from Reform, Orthodox or Conservative pulpits.

The problem then, it seems, is not religious unity or diversity, but creation of a climate that will be conducive to continued Jewish religious living apart from form. If I were a rabbi in these days of turmoil in Jewish life, I would be less concerned with influencing my congregation into accepting one or another concept of Judaism as with seeking to create a climate conducive to the thriving of Jewish values. In such an enclave alone can Jewish religious life survive.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY AND PAY AND PAY

"For you to be free is for me to be happy..." Only eleven words, yet they bear eloquent testimony to the selfless dedication of a young Nevadan serving with the Marine Corps in Viet Nam. His name is Alan VanGuilder, his rank is private first class, and his home is Nevada. He is a man to be admired by every citizen of his state and nation.

Private VanGuilder is one of several Nevadans who have written to me and my family from Viet Nam in the past several months. I look forward to these letters. They are inspiring reminders that the American fighting man has lost neither his sense of values nor his sense of humor while enduring the miseries of a new and different kind of war.

Some of the correspondence is light-hearted and some is serious, but all, without exception, reflects confidence in our mission to end Communist aggression in Viet Nam.

"I sincerely believe that what we are doing in Viet Nam is just," writes Private VanGuilder. "I am sure we will win. Freedom is our cause and the standard of democracy is our goal."

Specialist Fourth Class Gary Hight, a member of the Army's already legendary First Cavalry Division, writes:

"The men...are really upset over what's going on in the States. Why is it that some citizens do not seem to realize that one of the greatest goals in life is... the safety of our democracy and a free way of life?"

"I only hope those demonstrators are a minority rather than a majority."

Typically, the letters are filled with the American GI's traditional concern for the innocent victims of war. Private Van Guilder describes the Vietnamese as "a poor, diseased and frightened people." Specialist Hight says his tour of duty has "made

me realize how Communism affects innocent people."

Some letters vividly describe the incredible strain of combat. Army PFC Lance Gotchy writes:

"Life in Viet Nam is uncomfortable, both mentally and physically. We can take the physical discomfort, but the scared feeling one gets when he learns of the next operation... it feels good to get started and to lose the suspense of it all."

One thing Private Gotchy hasn't lost is his sense of humor. His letter is written on the back of a Christmas Day menu for Army troops. At the top of the menu -- which featured roast turkey and all the trimmings -- he carefully inscribed: "Believe me, Governor, it wasn't this good!"

Some of the correspondence can only be described as heart-breaking. This, for example, from Army PFC R.E. Wagner.

"It is real hard for me to write this letter, because this is the first time I ever received a letter from a governor and his family. I hope when I come home in May of 1966 I will be able to thank you in person.

"May God bless you and your family always."

Equally unforgettable are the final paragraphs of Private VanGuilder's letter:

"Spending the Christmas and New Year holidays in Viet Nam did not dampen my spirit. I'll fight with hopes of spending next Christmas at home with my friends and loved ones.

"For you to be free is for me to be happy. May God bless all of you."

And then, the last lines of Specialist Hight's letter, which tell the whole story of our involvement in Viet Nam:

"As long as you and I believe we should be free, we must treat that feeling in others as important. There is no finer cause for which a man may die than the cause of these people."

*R-J Editorial*



JUDGE JOHN SEXTON

After nearly a lifetime as a newspaperman, there are very few things you can see or hear or experience that will shock you, but still they happen.

Like it says in the book, "There are more things on heaven and earth than you will ever find in your philosophy." There certainly are.

The last time we were amazed by an incredulity was Barry Goldwater's "Extremism is no vice, etc." That time the words so stunned us, we fell off the couch.

Well, it happened again last week while reading an editorial in the Las Vegas Review Journal. On this occasion we fell out of bed.

What caught our eye was a sentence near the top of the editorial: "Now, the Nevada Supreme Court has issued a decision which almost defies belief." What did it do, we asked ourself, as we digested the rest of the article?

The case involved a man who had been convicted by a jury and sentenced by Dist. Judge John Sexton to five years imprisonment. Defense attorney was court-appointed Leonard Root. The article does not name the prosecutor from D.A. Ted Marshall's office. These three persons are very important, as you shall see.

It seems, there was a stipulation in the minutes of the trial that a juror be excused. Both sides agreed. However, the official transcript showed that the verdict was rendered by a full jury of twelve. On this basis the Supreme Court reversed the decision and ordered a new trial.

We do not have any idea who wrote the editorial. Whoever that poor soul may be, we suggest in the future he confine his writings to other than subjects involving law and courts. It is because of articles like this, the courts all over the land are clamoring to restrict reporters from "trying cases" in the newspapers. It is unfair to the rest of the journalism profession to be censored by the unexcusable failings of a few.

The editorial states: "The Supreme Court's position in this case clearly indicates unfamiliarity with the case and the circumstances, or that it was deliberately misled. The court apparently did not hold a hearing before issuing its order. The office of D.A. Marshall was not given an opportunity to explain the circumstances."

At this point we point out the only one misled was the editorial writer, who clearly indicates unfamiliarity with purpose and process of the Supreme Court.

The editorial continued: "It is also somewhat curious that the Supreme Court, which acts in a review capacity, should allow itself to become a court of original jurisdiction in the filing of a writ of habeas corpus when the matter could have been brought before other trial courts."

And the editorial ends with: "This case is a good example of the wrongs that can result from hearing only part or one side of any story. It is also a disappointment that a legal body, held in such high esteem, could issue such a directive without being apprised of all the facts."

Of course, we save the punch line for the end of our col-  
(Continued on Page 5)

**U.S.Y. YOURS**

by Jan Klein

The USY will challenge the skill of the AZA in a basketball game at 2:00 on Sunday, February 6, at the John C. Fremont gym. This should be a rather (!) exciting game -- be sure not to miss out.

Beth Weinstein made the straight "A" honor roll -- on the regular honor roll are Mike Newmna, Joan Weinstein, and Larry Speiser. Congratulations to my brother Kerry and his band, the Misty Souls, who took first place in a talent search. As a result, the band will

obtain an audition from a movie company and is also planning to make a record in the very near future, which will be featured on radio.

February 5 is the date for the "Ecstasy in the Stars" from 8 p.m. til midnight, sponsored by T.N. Teens (Temple Ner Tamid, Van Nuys). There will be a live band and the admission is only \$1.00 per person. For more information, contact Doris Horowitz, 8954 Collett, Sepulveda, Calif. 91343 or call 892-2085.