

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE
OF NEVADA
Phone 870-1255

Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada
Price per copy 15¢ - Per Year \$6 - 2 Years \$10

P.O. Box 549, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101

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and Barney Glazer, Harry Golden, Percy Villa

2nd Class Mail, Las Vegas, Nev.
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Guest Columnist
Rabbi Mordecai Levy
FROM Temple Beth Hillel
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Failure at Communication

Communication is the most important aspect of human relations. Infact, of all relations. Everything depends upon how we communicate. A recent movie - "Cool Hand Luke" - uses as its theme - What we have here is failure to communicate.

Marshall McLuhan - the modern phenomenon of "talk and write" entitles one of his books "The Medium is the Message". Man must learn how to communicate. The most important aspect is not "What" we communicate, but rather "how".

It is therefore a rather strange situation in our times that erupts forth when we read about two erroneous misguided, or even dishonest methods of communication. They seem to occur daily and with greater rapidity. They take place to a great extent in the political arenas of life, though in actuality, they are by no means restricted to politics.

One is the denial technique; the other is the ghost technique.

Person X who is in government service is asked direct questions about his future plans. An "honest" answer would be "no comment" or "undecided" or "Will disclose at a future date". Instead we read daily in our newspapers - "I am not interested in a change of position. I definitely will not accept the presidency of "y" organization." Later that afternoon, a press conference is convened at which time the person in question announces that he definitely will accept, in fact he made up his mind months ago.

We are presumably mature people. It is a "hard pill to swallow - this mysterious manner of communication.

Suppose, for example, Abraham, when he decided through insight because of revelation as a result of faith - he said not that he believes in God, but rather - I am not interested in supporting any movement or group that seeks to identify itself with the belief in the Almighty. I never have nor do I at the present time subscribe to such attitudes or hold to such a position that there is a Divine Being in the Universe. Suppose he did this in Ur or Chaldea where he grew up. And then years later, in Israel he says - of course I believed all the time in God. How strange it would have been for Judaism. Or had Solomon said -- we do not plan to erect on Mount Moriah any sort of Temple or building or architectural monument to the Supreme Deity. We have no plans to negotiate with foreign nations that would supply us with material. Had that denial been used to communicate, we might have truly had a failure to communicate with God.

The second device used now-a-days is to employ a ghost writer. One leading elected official has gone so far - not merely to employ a ghost for all his speeches, T V appearances and the like, but also to write his jokes, his off-the-cuff remarks, his witticisms etc. Just think! Canned jokes used by statesmen!

But even more ghastly than ghostly is to have someone review a book, publish the account, with the statesman's name as reviewer. A book review by one who has never read the book. This is done today as our "leaders" communicate with us. Imagine, the writers of the Bible or the Talmud or the Codes of Law. They weren't the utterances of Hillel, or Maimonides, or Moses, or Akiba. These great men were the "fronts". Maybe a Persian wrote the poetry of the Bible. Perhaps a Chinese philosopher compiled the Ethics of the Fathers. Or a member of Islamic faith wrote the 13 principles of Jewish faith.

But not, we used no ghosts to tell our people of God's miracles, large or small. The AmYisre-el, the people Israel, we did this. Our Rabbis wrote. Our scholars prayed. They alone performed all these acts, and wrote these books. They and they alone.

This was our honesty at communication. Perhaps once again, the Biblical message will be restored. No denials, no ghosts, no midiums. Only, man speaking directly, respectfully, honestly, to his fellow man and to his nation.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- State Department sources believe Israel is exaggerating her need for additional military equipment and the extent of the Soviet military build-up for the Arab states. Speaking on the record, however, spokesman Robert McCloskey said the Department had "no detailed information" on the Soviet resupply of the Arabs.

Responding to questions about Israel's desire to purchase 50 Phantom F-4 jets to replace aircraft canceled by France Mr. McCloskey said, "I can neight confirm no deny that such a request was made."

Rep. Jonathan Bingham, New York Democrat, this week wrote President Johnson the need for the United States to take greater responsibility for Israeli military needs

TELL TALES
"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"
BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

the column you'll be reading in one month to remind you of the Israelite commencing its Fourth year.

Next we commented on the affairs of state in Nevada with the heading "Taxes Shmaxes Abbee Gazunt." This was followed by an admission of a mistake by offering a Chinese Dinner to our subscribers under the title: "To Err Is Human."

The longest Tell Tales column ever written refuted in detail, and with careful explanation and proof, false accusations against the Israelite, only to be blasted, but never a word uttered on the real issue (nor has there been any to this very day) on unjustification of the false accusations.

We raved about the Men's Club Gin Rummy Tourney, which causes us to remember the one we had promoted that raised more money for the Temple than any in recent years. The event should be revived.

Michele Donna Tell was born on Feb. 28th and this writer assumed a new perspective of life.

We were fascinated by "A History of the Jews," by Abram Leon Sacher, but space limitation and difficulty in obtaining release from its publisher prohibited our promise of printing it verbatim. We still believe it is the Best Story Ever Told.

Our Strongest Weakness, Michele was explained by an apology to Bonnie, our first grandchild, who, at a mature, four, was most understanding of our feeling about her baby sister.

We gave our readers an exclusive Passover present, from son Jay, about the impending rise in value of Silver Dollars. Our information was substantiated within months with the price for 1,000 cartwheels on the open market going from \$1,400 to \$2500.

We next told our readers of the passing of two friends from back East, Sam Brishman, a millionaire and Kenneth McSarin, Broadway's biggest eater. This was followed by the first public appreciation for Joe "Mr. Open Line" Delaney, who we spotted as one of the brightest commentators to come along to our city in many a year. Our opinion was vindicated in subsequent months by Joe commencing his most informative column in the Las Vegas Sun and his most enjoyable weeday TV show on Channel 13.

On Mother's Day which happens to be the anniversaries of the Preston Feinbergs and the Tells, we reminded readers (and our sons) that Father's Day would fall on June 18th.

On May 26, 1967 we wrote, under the title Israel Our Israel. "By the time you are reading this column, full scale war may be raging in the Middle East." It commenced on June 6. We denounced war and prayed it would never start, but: "If war does come naturally our sentiments are for Israel, unequivocally Once engaged, we support a policy of uninterrupted, full scale, even fierce all-out combat, to bring about a favorable conclusion." The war, as you know lasted six days.

We believe the Israelite was the first to point out the cause for the immediate aggravation to Israel, which had withstood for ten years infiltrations of marauding bands of Arabs causing death and property destruction. "Within the past two months artillery shells have been fired from Syria into Israel. This posed a problem which negated the efficiency of Israeli guards to repress Arab infiltrations. Anticipating reprisal, Egypt demanded the U.N. token force withdraw, and immediately began massing armies on Israel's border. Other Arab natons followed suit."

On June 2, under "Let's Be Sensible" we pleaded with American Jews not to cause animosity in the U.S. by screaming at members of our government: "When guns are being pointed you don't point fingers."

The war came and the Israelite revealed how even those of us without funds could purchase Israel Bonds, via a loan from the bank with the Bonds as security. We suggested that dormant Men's Club funds be utilized to purchase Israeli Bonds. This was done. Under "ISRAEL WE ARE HERE," we described the emergency rally for Israel as "America the Beautiful" and "It was the most inspiring night in our entire life."

Next we commenced a six weeks campaign to point out the anti-Semitism of the editor of the Las Vegas Review Journal. So effective was our complaints, hundreds cancelled their subscriptions and R-J advertising fell off to the point where its ad representatives started a whispering campaign villifying the Israelite. We finally printed an explanation from the R-J publisher, coincidentally with the ceasing of anti-semitic articles in the daily newspaper.

This brings up to mid-1967 in a re-cap of Tell Tales Column. The months from July to December will be summarized next in this space, and we'll go on to predictions for 1968.