

## LETTERS

The Editor, Suite 175, Postnet X10039, Randburg, 2125 email: carro@global.co.za

**Guidelines for letters:** Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

**Disclaimer:** The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report

## WHY PUT PEOPLE ON A GUILT TRIP AD INFINITUM?

I READ with irritation Prof Deborah Posel's comments, 17 years after apartheid, that Jews should acknowledge, publicly and symbolically, that they too were beneficiaries of apartheid.

Let's go the whole hog and call on coloureds, Indians, Zulu-supporters of Inkatha, Xhosa supporters of Matanzima, Tswana-supporters of Mangope, and all other homeland beneficiaries, to go on their knees and seek forgiveness for benefiting as members of the racial hierarchy.

What do these UCT academics think they

have to gain by putting people on a guilt-trip ad infinitum?

As a social scientist I dare Posel to do an audit of what Jews are doing to contribute to building and developing South Africa. I await her results. It is time to move on and that is what I as a black person desire.

**Rhoda Kadalie**  
Executive Director, Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre  
Cape Town

## ONE 'DISEASE' INDEED NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION

ONE CANNOT help but agree with the editor, that the "letters page" of the SA Jewish Report, is not the place for a medical dissertation regarding certain disease processes. Any pertinent information required, pertaining to medical maladies, can be obtained from the appropriate medical practitioner, or perhaps, a little too easily, from the font of medical expertise on the Internet.

Having said this, there is indeed one disease that requires to be urgently overcome, and that is the "disease of non-communication, and non-recognition" that exists between Orthodox and Reform Jewry.

This is a disease that is not only destructive at a personal level, but is also harmful to the

endeavours of communication that will hopefully strengthen and maintain the mutual validity of all the different groups within the Jewish people.

The variations in the manifestations and propagation of the Jewish ethos, traditions and practices, must not be allowed to distract from the continued survival of the "Chosen People".

The "health" of Judaism must be maintained at all costs, by all sectors of the Jewish nation.

**Dr A M Levin**  
Bryanston  
Sandton

## RUSSELL'S COFFIN MUST HAVE BURNT TO CINDER

IS IT possible to arrange for someone to replace the coffin of Bertrand Russell? The perversion of his principles by the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, must have had him spinning in his grave at such a speed that the ensuing friction caused the wood of the coffin to be burnt to cinder.

And to compound the shame of the Jews of South Africa (and the world), Nathan Geffen strides bravely forward (Doron Isaacs, where art thou?) to castigate Israel and the Jews

with his half truths and downright inconsistencies, probably because he feels we have forgotten him and he feels terribly neglected.

In any case, he succeeded since I've been forced to take notice of him and his half-baked peregrinations of his mind. What boggles the mind is that Geffen wasn't invited to deliver his dissertation to the Russell Tribunal.

**Jack Miller**  
Gresswold, Johannesburg

## COMMUNITY SHOULD'VE HAD COUNTER-TRIBUNAL

I AM heartened by the stand taken by Jewish students and other members of our community at the Russell Tribunal. I just have one problem: Why do we always only react?

I don't really expect the "Krengels Ltd" to do anything, but there is supposedly new leadership at the helm.

What we should have done was have our own tribunal at the same time. We should have invited people such as Dershowitz, Goldstone, Beck and one or two pro-Israel actors/actresses and we would have stolen

the limelight.

Or is it beyond the Jewish civil service to do anything proactive? I know someone will shout: "Who will pay?" But that is a minor problem. We just have to get rid of the surplus employees at "The Jewish Civil Service" to fund such an event.

**Chaim Myerson**  
Parklands, Cape Town

*Some comments have been removed. -Editor*

## PAULA SLIER GETS ROSENBERG THUMBS DOWN

I WAS absolutely appalled, early Monday evening, to see (journalist) Paula Slier's interview with Uri Avnery - "activist" - on Russia Today, broadcast from Tel Aviv. In the background and also in close-up, they showed our brave young soldiers training to guard our borders and trying to keep Arab terrorists from blowing us up, etc.

How dare she! Doesn't she realise she is endangering the lives of these kids?

When she was lecturing in Johannesburg some years ago, I approached her and gave her the name of my daughter and cousins in Beersheva. I asked her to please say something nice about Israel for a change.

I told her to go down south and visit Ben-Gurion University, where amazing work is being done to encourage the Bedouin Arabs in surrounding villages to attend school, by giving them scholarships, instead of some of

them selling drugs. Some of the women with no formal education are taught to do beadwork and embroidery to sell.

Does Slier know about the electric car stations set up around the country? Or the non-chemical water purification systems? Or that Israel has the highest survival rate for cancer victims in the world? Does she care?

Avnery ended the interview with comments on Israel being an "apartheid" state. Do they not read information refuting this and proving that this is not so?

Paula, why don't you go and live in Syria, or North Africa, where I'm sure they will welcome you with open arms.

I will not be watching Russian Today anymore.

**Shelly Rosenberg**  
Parkwood, Johannesburg

## WHAT A WAY TO PROVE YOU'RE A SUPER-LIBERAL!

JARED JOEL writes of "The baffling enigma of the self hating Jew" (SAJR November 11).

My opinion is that Jews who criticise other Jews (in public) are not self-hating but have overzealous consciences and what better a way to prove that one is super-liberal than by criticising one's own group? Imagine his peers' comments: "Now there's a true liberal, he even criticises his own group."

There are a myriad potential targets for liberals with overactive consciences, but none of the other efforts will accord them (the liberals) the same exposure as when they condemn their own group.

As an example of unjust regimes, there was the Soviet Union till 1990 (Ronald Reagan was a lone voice); the North African dictators have been around for over 30 years - it takes about 10 years to realise a regime is a dicta-

torship, so where have the human rights activists been for the last 20 years?

Where are those activists regarding Burma, Syria and closer to home, Zimbabwe?

Religion has a role to play in determining whether one will be passive or over active. Liberal leaning people generally don't adhere to the rituals of religion. Adherents to the ritual of religion generally are conservatism and don't have the inclination to self-criticism.

Let those Jewish critics have no illusion - to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his followers: Born a Jew, always a Jew.

**John Brenner**  
Cyrildene  
Johannesburg

## LOOKING FOR APARTHEID IN MIDEAST? LOOK IN THE RIGHT PLACES

ONCE AND for all we can say enough with lies, we all know that apartheid is alive and kicking in the Middle East! However, perhaps all of us, including the kangaroos, are looking in the wrong direction.

Surely part of this apartheid is against the Palestinians. There are laws that forbid Palestinians from voting and working and buying houses. Where? Not where you were looking! Not in the territories but in Lebanon, in Egypt, in Syria and for sure in the Gulf, where they are second grade human beings and just a notch over slaves.

And why is that? Surprise - that "gift" is the curse of the UN! It is the UN that declared that every Egyptian or Lebanese or Iraqi or Jordanian, who worked in Israel for only two years, is now a Palestinian refugee forever, him and his family, denying them the right to unite with their original nation and be free citizens and forced them to live on charity as refugees instead.

And by the way, the amount of charity they receive is per person so much more than that of any hungry person in Africa. Checked!

And is the "Pe-la-Satan" not an apartheid pre-state in the making? By from staying there - just because they are Jews! Just imag-

ine how easy it was if "Palestine" was not actively promoting Judenrein! If this is not apartheid, what is?

The same separation and religious intolerance is the reason that the Christian majority of Bethlehem, is there no more.

What was first, the chicken or the egg? Long ago all the roads were open, without road blocks, no barriers. That is how it all started. There was good economic revival and people from Jericho visited Jerusalem and vice versa. I remember. I was there.

The need for protection came like it did at the airports, like in our own garden walls, when the security situation deteriorated to a stage that it (this protection) was absolutely necessary. And it saves lives. Checked.

They are the living example of apartheid which promotes murder on gender preference issues, honour killings of young women, a society which raises its kids for the sole purpose of killing others. Checked.

The truth must be said, admitted, corrected, and after that, perhaps, there will be a place for reconciliation.

**Naomi Dinur**  
Senderwood, Johannesburg

## MODERN ISRAEL IS NOT 'A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS'

I HAVE the answer for Jared Joel, because I, too, resent the attitudes of many Jews who are driven by their own narrow, political stance in their distasteful attitude to Israel's existence.

It is Israel itself which is feeding the growing odium that has become the norm in today's anti-Israel world. It is the arrest of a Jewish woman who went to pray at the Kotel which demonises modern Israel. It is the sickening sight of Jewish men stoning young women and their children on their way to school which damages Israel.

It is the continuing debate on "who is a Jew" that is a repugnant element in the psyche of modern Israel. It is a bungling Mossad stalking a human being in full view of the world's television screens, while sowing anger and disbelief among the (country's) few remaining friends through the illegal and arrogant use of their passports that condemns Israel.

It is (Benjamin) Netanyahu calling for Palestinians to take note of the last 44 years of history, while he, together with Jews like Joel, studiously ignore the reality of the past 1 800 years, that drives growing disillusionment, not only in the non-Jewish world, but, sadly, increasingly so among long-term pro-

Zionist Jews like me.

I am not a recipient of benefits from Saudi Arabia, nor am I ingratiated with Islamists, nor a believer in political correctness, nor an attention seeker. I am totally committed to the right of the Jewish people to their homeland.

But the modern Israel that I bought into was supposed to be a moral light unto the nations. What is unacceptable is what it is becoming, while it is fawned upon and viciously defended by Jews like Joel.

Jews like him drive Jews like me to despair of Jews like him and their vision of Israel. Their "my Israel, wrong or wrong" attitude is the reason why Israel's moral standing has sunk to a new low.

The glory days of Entebbe, Eichmann and the Munich revenge are gone now and there was some morality there. Israel must now define the borders and end the occupation. Let the Palestinians persist in their stupidity.

Israel can rather rain down fire and brimstone from within its own, defined territory. There would be some morality there.

**Bernard Duchon**  
Highlands North, Johannesburg

## CRITICISM OF ISRAEL DOESN'T MAKE ONE 'A SELF-HATING JEW'

I REFER to Jared Joel's letter, "The baffling enigma of the self-hating Jew".

Joel starts his letter by asking rhetorical questions: "Why do certain Jewish individuals see fit to side with the enemies of Israel and the Jewish people? Why do some Jews criticise Israel constantly while turning a blind eye to the myriad evils perpetrated by Palestinians and Arab nations against Jews, non-Arab minorities, non-Muslims, and even their own people?"

He does not really want answers to these questions as he has formed his own response with no research and no insight. To his credit he admits that his opinions are a theory with no basis in fact and he has not taken the time to investigate the reasons why some Jews have dissenting views on Israel, and could have propinquity with Arabs and other Islamic agencies.

I take exception with Joel's reasoning that if a Jew criticises the politics of Israel, this Jew is de facto a self-hating Jew. A very evocative nomenclature - and I am not sure I know what it means. If medical practitioners disagree with the politics of healthcare, are they self-hating doctors? The logic of this argument is spurious and obfuscating.

It is unhelpful, and arrogant, to dismiss those with opposing views as possessing some dysfunctional psychological pathology.

## FOR THE RECORD

### COLLISION BETWEEN 2 CARS CAUSED NATANEL'S DEATH

DETAILS OF the accident that caused Natanel Feigenbaum's death in 2009, as related in our story on Ohr Natanel last week, were incorrect.

An accident between two cars resulted in Natanel's death; he wasn't knocked down by a car. We regret the error.

**Gary T Boswell**  
Orange Grove  
Johannesburg