

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2009

➲ Australian Jewish News, Australian Goyish News or Australian Gayish News?

Anyone reading this week's edition of the AJN will be wondering if he/she didn't mistakenly pick up a copy of the "Australian Gayish News". Why?

Because there are no less than 9 items(!) about the AJN's current sweethearts - the homosexuals (or to use the full label - "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transvestites").

Yes - 9, including the ENTIRE front page, an editorial (where naturally blame for the killings in Tel Aviv is insinuated upon the 'ultra-orthodox')...

Drivel and hatred

BINYAMIN Alexander (AJN 31/07) defends Rabbi Chaim Ingram against accusations of "hatred and drivel". The simple fact is that an opinion based on a simple outline of Jewish law may well be hated if its only basis is a man-made interpretation of the supposed wishes of a man-made divinity.

When the self-righteous accuse those who practise what they consider abhorrent to be guilty of immoral behaviour or behaviour against Jewish law, that is hatred.

No amount of special pleading by Rabbi Ingram or any religious authority can convert drivel into intelligent opinion, unless they can prove that there is a supreme being that is the very basis of Jewish law. They cannot.

The charges of "drivel and hatred" as stated are thus accurate. -

It will be interesting to see the convoluted logic from Rabbi Ingram and Binyamin Alexander to justify God's will as an expression of love and not hatred, which caused the two deaths at the gay community centre in Tel Aviv this week.

IAN BERSTEN
Roseville, NSW

Shootings are despicable

A BRUTAL attack on a Tel Aviv community centre for gay and lesbian teenagers and young adults shocked Israel and the Jewish world this week.

The shootings, which claimed the lives of two and injured four others, have been condemned across much of Israeli society.

Israel's President Shimon Peres slammed the crimes as "despicable murder" that "a cultured and enlightened people cannot accept".

In Australia, Jewish gay and lesbian individuals and the Dayenu and Aleph organisations have added their voices to the condemnation.

The tragedy is even greater because the Tel Aviv centre provides a secure environment for gays and lesbians, and those who have not yet come out, to find a safe space to map out their short-term and longer-term lives – away from tawdry bars and other threatening backdrops.

An Australian man has spoken to *The AJN* about the emotional support he received from the centre at a critical phase of his life.

It is not yet known who committed the crimes and police have not made any arrests, so it would be wrong to rush to judgement. But at the same time, opponents of homosexuality in Israel should take these murders as a signal for them to differentiate between criticism and incitement in their narrative.

In the recent past, members of ultra-Orthodox political parties have made inflammatory comments about gays and lesbians.

Last year, a Shas MK actually suggested in the Knesset that earthquakes were a divine punishment for homosexuality.

The line between hateful language and violence is easily crossed. In 2005, an ultra-Orthodox protester stabbed three marchers at a Jerusalem gay parade. Israelis know that combustible words can lead to tragedy, as was graphically demonstrated by the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

Opponents of homosexuality need to curb their unconstructive language and refrain from making statements that de-legitimise the gay and lesbian community and the right of Israeli gay and lesbians to live as safely and securely as anyone in Israel's broad and diverse society.

If it turns out the shootings were a hate crime, it would be a harsh reminder that hatred between Jew and Jew is an insidious dimension of life in Israel that threatens to undermine Israeli society, as if the problems Israelis find immediately beyond their borders were not enough.

...a couple of repeat letters from the usual Torah-hating, gay-loving, single-issue-obsessed letter-writers (see top right) and of course a Kron cartoon.

Additionally, editor Ashley Browne in his blog uses the gay killings to assail the Hamodia newspaper. (That's the second time in 4 weeks that

(~~about the Hamodia newspaper~~ (This is the second time in 4 weeks that the Hamodia has been attacked in the AJN. Looks like this upstart weekly is biting deeply into the AJN's sales and advertising revenue.)

**The world according to Hamodia:
no gays, no murder**

ASHLEY BROWNE

The shooting attack in a gay community centre in Tel Aviv on Saturday night that killed two people is creating a huge stir in Israel.

This should come as no surprise. Disregarding the Orthodox population, Israel is one of the more gay-friendly countries in the world and you don't have to spend too much time in the more vibrant sections of Tel Aviv to become aware of a strong and tolerant gay culture.

AJN columnist Haviv Rettig Gur updated his Facebook status yesterday to say that the shooting was "a reminder that when the peace process with the Arabs ends, there are some culture wars to be won inside our country."

The Israeli media is all over this story - as is the world media - with one notable exception. According to the Jerusalem Post, the Orthodox newspaper Hamodia, has pulled the bedsheets over its head, closed its eyes, blocked its ears and is pretending that the story did not happen.

That's right. No gays. No murder.

And yes, this is the same newspaper that a section of the Australian Jewish community believes should become our community's paper of record.

Just like Browne and Bersten, we too have no idea who the TA gays killer is. But there is as much a chance - in fact far greater - that it was another homosexual (jealous lover's tiff, maybe) as it being the work of an 'ultra-orthodox'. But that shouldn't and doesn't hold back Browne from taking an opportunity to smear frum Jews.

And we would advise Ashley to leave the Hamodia alone. They know EXACTLY what they are doing and understand the audience that they are catering to. The last thing their readers are interested in is what is happening in Tel Aviv snakepits of dreck and perversion.

At the time that you struggle to fill a few miserly pages of your paper with anything newsworthy - thus sinking to a new low with 9 items extolling and supporting TA homosexuals, the Hamodia (even the fledgling Australian edition) carries 4 or 5 times as much Israeli, world and Jewish news and features as does the AJN. In fact, the only half-decent reporting one finds in the Jewish News are the articles that you copy and paste from the Jerusalem Post. Sadly for you, even that is a waste of time and newsprint. Anyone who is interested has already read these on the JPost.com website. People no longer wait a week to read your "plagiarism".

Your comment that "Israel is one of the more gay-friendly countries in the world and you don't have to spend too much time in the more

vibrant sections of Tel Aviv to become aware of a strong and tolerant gay culture" indeed nauseates, depresses and disgusts not only Hamodia readers, but all decent, civilized and moral people - of all religious beliefs. Your pride and delight that Israel has become a world-leader in depravity and debasement says much about you and your publication.

As for Ian Bersten's repetitive attacks on the Torah and his predictable idiotic comments again proves that this man is a total ignoramus as well as an apikorus (if an ignoramus can qualify for this title.)

at 12:56 PM 

Labels: [ashley browne](#), [gayish news](#), [goyish news](#), [ian bersten](#), [Jewish news](#), [tel aviv gay kill](#)