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Rabbi rapped for hosting pro-Arab talk

By MARY GNIEWIEK

Censured by the Rabbinical Commission for sponsoring a lecture by noted journalist and Palestinian sympathizer I.F. Stone, Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine says that he will not be deterred from sponsoring other controversial speakers at the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills.

Wine, himself a member of the commission which condemned the Stone lecture, was not present at the meeting where approximately one half of the 23 rabbis who are members voted. It was not a unanimous decision.

The Rabbinical Commission is the religious arm of the Jewish Community Council of metropolitan Detroit. Since each congregation is independent, membership is voluntary. The council acts as an advisory group.

Wine received a letter of protest from commission president Rabbi Israel I. Halpern two weeks after Stone's June 4th appearance in Farmington Hills.

Stone, a 71-year-old Jew who has authored more than a dozen books, drew the ire of some members of the audience for criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He also advocated recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in peace talks.

Halpern asked for an apology from Wine and his congregation for "providing I.F. Stone a platform from which to espouse his pro-PLO, anti-Israeli views."

"WE FELT The rabbi should not provide a forum for anyone who wants to criticize Israel," said Halpern, who is rabbi at Beth Abraham Hillel Moses in West Bloomfield.

"He compared Begin to Yassir Arafat, said they were the same kind of terrorists. The lecture was not in the best interest of the Jewish community."

Though Halpern did not attend the talk, he said it was adverse publicity generated by Stone's visit, in newspapers and by word of mouth, that caused the commission to censure Wine.

He said the censure, though just an opinion statement which carries no legal power, was an unusual procedure.

"I certainly isn't unusual. It's the first time in my career I've ever heard of it," Halpern said.

Wine was indignant about the censure and drafted a letter of response to the Rabbinical Commission last week. He asked for an apology to Stone and the Birmingham Temple.

"The forum exists to provide an opportunity for people to hear interesting and controversial voices. We shall continue as long as the American Constitution exists."

—Rabbi Sherwin Wine

"What we have here is the issue of free speech," he said. "We invited Stone because he represented a point of view not usually heard in the Jewish community."

"He is a man with impeccable credentials, an intellectual, not a fly-by-night. His point of view is not popular with the Jewish establishment, but there are Jews in Israel with similar points of view."

THE STONE LECTURE was part of the Birmingham Temple's Humanist Forum series, which also sponsored a talk by orthodox Rabbi Meir Kahane earlier this season.

"You can't get more right-wing than Kahane," Wine noted. "But we hear points of view that will make us think. If we hear only echoes of our own opinion, we would never learn anything. Legitimate differences ought to be aired. We believe in open discussion."

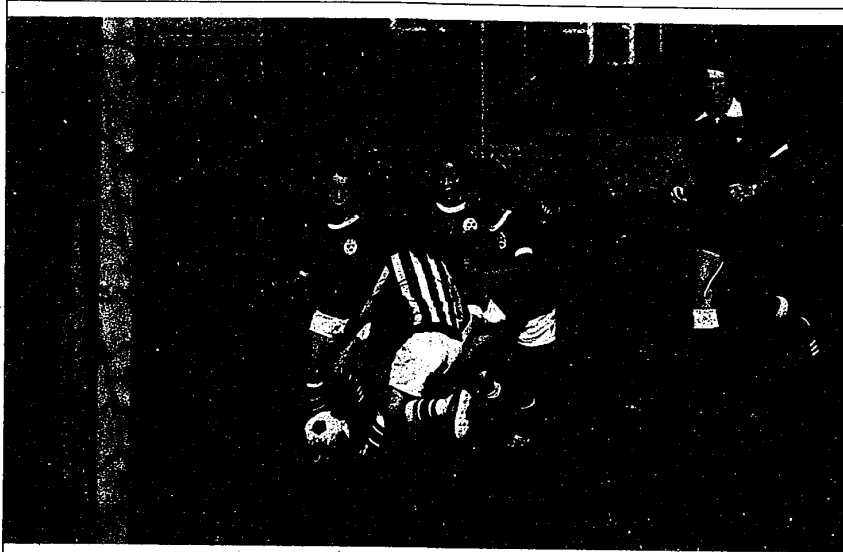
Wine founded Humanistic Judaism in 1963 as a fourth alternative to orthodox, conservative and reform Judaism. His congregation, which moved from Birmingham to Farmington Hills in 1970, has 400 families.

"Today's dogma is tomorrow's heresy, and vice versa. Censure is very dangerous," Wine continued. "The commission's behavior was inappropriate. If they had reflected on it, they would have reacted differently."

"The forum exists to provide an opportunity for people to hear interesting and controversial voices. We shall continue to do that as long as the American Constitution exists."

"I was surprised by the censure. Stone has spoken at other temples. I never imagined the commission would behave in this fashion. I think they will regret having done so."

"The issue of peace between Israel and the Arab world is very difficult. Therefore, we should listen to as many voices as possible."



Kicking off the game

Two Farmington teams battle it out on the playing fields of East Middle School in Plymouth during the playoffs for the Great Lakes Soccer League. Soccer has become one of the most popular sports for

boys and girls. For more pictures of youngsters working off their boundless energy at this rapidly growing sport, turn to page 3A of today's Observer. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

Solicitor general says Nazis are focus of a special probe

By MARY GNIEWIEK

U.S. Solicitor General Wade H. McCree Jr. brought a group of Jewish professionals in Farmington Hills up to date last week concerning the newest division of the U.S. Justice Department: a special investigative force created solely to identify and deport Nazi sympathizers living in the United States.

McCree, whose long legal background is mainly rooted in Detroit, addressed a business seminar of B'nai B'rith at the Adat Shalom Synagogue.

The former judge served on the Michigan Circuit Court and the U.S. District Court in Detroit before his appointment by Lyndon Johnson to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

President Carter appointed him solicitor general, the third ranking official in the Justice Department, in 1977. McCree is in charge of representing the United States in cases which come before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The office of special investigation was created in March to locate, bring to trial and deport Nazis living in the United States," McCree said.



WADE MCCREE

"The new office may become permanent or may be disestablished as time goes on. As long as I'm in Washington and Griffin Bell is Attorney General, we will respond to these needs."

THE OFFICE HAS a \$2 million budget for 1980. Its 50-person staff includes attorneys and historians investigating 200 active files of Nazi support-

ers living in the United States.

"We're working on the prosecution of 12 people, mostly those who aided Nazis. No cases have been concluded yet."

McCree cited the Fedorenko case, now pending in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. He explained that the solicitor general's participation in that case, like any other, depended on the government losing at the local court level.

All requests for appeals are filed with the solicitor general. Of 1,600 reports filed last year, 500 appeals were authorized.

Fedorenko, a Ukrainian who served in the Russian army in World War II before his capture by the Germans, served one year as an armed guard at a death camp in Poland.

Witnesses at his trial said they saw Fedorenko shoot at escaping Jewish prisoners on one occasion.

Fedorenko testified that he gained a resident U.S. visa in 1949 by claiming to have been a farmer in Poland during the war. In 1970, he became a U.S. citizen.

A magazine publisher informed the

Justice Department last year about Fedorenko's wartime activities. He was brought to trial in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where charges were dismissed.

The U.S. government based its appeal on Fedorenko's misrepresentation to U.S. Immigration officials.

"In the Fedorenko case, we not only authorized the appeal, we sent one of our own attorneys to New Orleans to argue the case," McCree said.

THE CASE WAS argued in April and a decision is forthcoming.

"McCree was invited to speak because he has a strong appeal with this group. A number here know the judge personally," said Les Goldstein, Michigan director of B'nai B'rith.

McCree has been known for many years for his support of civil rights issues, such as the Detroit Police Department's controversial affirmative action promotion policies.

One hundred forty B'nai B'rith members who work in the estate planning field, mostly attorneys but some accountants and insurance agents, were invited to the seminar.

B'nai B'rith is a Jewish international community service organization. The seminar focus was youth service programs, which are designed to foster and sustain Jewish heritage and culture.

"The object is to acquaint professionals with B'nai B'rith as a beneficial agency of giving," said Stephen Cooper, president of the Barristers Unit of B'nai B'rith.

"If they have clients preparing wills, they can tell them to consider our youth service program. It's a tax-exempt charity."

Wade McCree was asked to speak because he has always indicated a strong concern for youth and youth activities. He has been aware of B'nai B'rith activities for years and has participated throughout his life as a spokesman for youth activities."

McCree was made an honorary member of the Barristers Unit of B'nai B'rith.

Hobnobbing with Hobbits

Midearth tales dissected

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Marcia Helms first read J. R. R. Tolkien's trilogy 12 years ago when she was 14 years old. She liked it so much that she continues to re-read the story of Middle Earth.

Mrs. Helms isn't sure how many times she's read "The Lord of the Rings" or its companion piece, "The Hobbit." She remembers she quit counting after the 10th reading.

Her fascination with Tolkien led to the establishment of the American Tolkien Society. Together with her husband Philip and a friend, Dave Deltmann, she travels to different groups talking about the complex, scholarly background to the seemingly simple story.

On July 17 at 7 p.m., Mrs. Helms will be in Farmington Hills Library dwelling on her favorite subject.

For Mrs. Helms, 26, one of the appealing aspects of the story is Tolkien's basic direction. He wanted to provide readers with an emotion charged mythology which could help them consider moral and ethical questions. "It's a different approach to philosophy," said Mrs. Helms.

In the work, whole aspects of a society, including its languages, calendars,

customs, meals and celebrations are fabricated by Tolkien.

TOLKIEN'S STORY deals with human-like creatures, hobbits who are chosen to work toward the destruction of an evil magician wielding world power.

Within the course of the story, hobbits, men, dwarves and elves combine efforts to regain and destroy a set of rings which are the evil magician's source of power.

It was through this world that Tolkien sought to give the British a mythology of their own. The hobbits are based on an idealized version of the British farmers and country gentlemen.

It was the fashion in which Tolkien twisted existing myths and setting to his own purposes which attracted Mrs. Helms.

She is fascinated by the way in which legends become myths. Her first story concerned the American legends of Pecos Bill, Mike Fink and the keelboat races, and Paul Bunyon.

"They were tales which had germs of truth in them but had been embroidered beyond recognition in countless barroom retellings."

Eventually, Mrs. Helms discovered

that many American myths have their roots in European mythology.

Each culture has a set of myths which deal with essentially the same events and problems in life. Creation, death, rebirth, love, sex and war are fair game for myth makers.

IN THE MIDDLE Earth stories, Mrs. Helms sees Tolkien illustrating how each culture adapts the same stories to its own peculiar viewpoints and uses.

In the books, one of the central characters

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Rabbi Sherwin Wine discusses his censure by the Rabbinical Commission for sponsoring controversial lecturer I.F. Stone at the Birmingham Temple. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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NOTHING TO DO?

-If the summertime blues are beginning to settle in, check out the Farmington Hills Recreation Department program, highlighted on page 4A. Crafts, games and field trips, as well as a special Olympics tournament, are just a few of the fun things being offered.