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Letters (August 7, 2009)

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Letters published in the AJN print edition of August 7, 2009

A distant memory?

A RECENT news broadcast on the ABC mentioned World War II and the “mass murderer”, but named neither Hitler nor the Nazi regime in Germany, nor the six million murdered Jews and the millions of others exterminated by the Nazis. People speak of the Holocaust, but less and less is said of the fascists, and the men, women and children who died under their onslaught. The title comes too easily, the fearful details are obscured.

Is that not a form of forgetting?

Leon Sztajer
Melbourne, Vic

Misleading conversion

RE “Show us your Jewish Credentials” (24/07), Naomi Levin writes that “I believe conversion is a ‘virtual impossibility’”. I wonder if she read any of what I wrote, or simply scanned for a few controversial words.

In a lengthy article (www.chabad.org/3002), I explain that “conversion” is a misleading translation of “giur” – which means an entry into the Jewish people. We are a people before we are a religion. To imply from this that I am opposed to giur is irresponsible journalism. On the contrary, the Talmud teaches that “the Jewish people were only exiled among the nations in order to collect gerim”.

Rabbi Tzvi Freeman
Thornhill, Canada

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 hatred 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

Missing the point

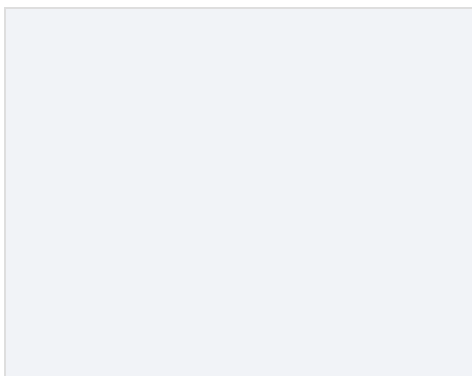
THE AJN’s editorial “Burying Bad News Is No Answer” (31/07) seems to have completely missed the point. Those who criticised The AJN for its deplorable front-page cover of a rabbi in Adelaide some weeks ago aimed their criticism not at its actual publication per se, but at the ill choice of publishing it on the front page for all to see.

No-one is suggesting that The AJN “turn a blind eye to Jewish figures” or “bury bad news”, but rather that news of this nature be printed anywhere from page two and on in the newspaper. This way, the Jews who purchase The AJN can be well informed and indeed hold these public figures up to account, while our non-Jewish neighbours, who have no need for this information, can be spared the gory details.

Mordechai Weiner
St Kilda East, Vic

Sad and scandalous news

AFTER the mourning and reflection that comes with Tisha b’Av, which commemorates the many tragedies that befell our



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