HISTORY REBUTTAL

As the Oxford historians responsible for teaching the course on Nazi Germany mentioned in a recent article by Pinto-Duschinsky (How Historians Remove Stains from the Nazis’ Memory, Apr 17) have revealed, it turns out that the JC would publish something so misleading.

This is a subject on which Pinto-Duschinsky does not name, is clearly titled “Nazi Germany: A Racial Order”. Bibliography in every university library and, in the topic’s context directly on the subject of antisemitism and the Holocaust; three of the eight weeks of teaching are focused solely on the role of antisemitism and the persecution of the Jews in and by Nazi Germany, WWII, Antisemitism and Everyday Life, The Politics of the Final Solution and Perpe-
trators and Victims.

That Pinto-Duschinsky accuses us of not confronting the “harrowing” events of the period, and of ignoring the view that “antisemitism was at the heart of the tragedy” would be laughable if the accusation weren’t so serious. The course reading includes 2,000 pages of primary sources, demonstrates the overwhelming horror of the annihilation of six million Jews through the execution of 6 million Jews in Auschwitz. The site features a library and collection of anti-Semitic material, and a glossary of terms.

The course has been well-received, and is the most popular course on the university’s history of the Holocaust.

GEORGE ALEMAN

When a leading newspaper omits to correct its misinformation about Israel’s capital, the body to tell the PCC, is it not? Yes, it is not.

N JUNE II, the JC story included an item about a scheme which I had made to the PCC, and the complaints Commission. As some of you have been labouring to contact me about this, I’m going to explain why I complained to the PCC, and what its refusal to accept my complaint means for what the media here in the UK choose to report about Israel.

In its issue of March 28, the Sunday Times carried an opinion piece by Andrew Sullivan, an Oxford educated Catholic who is said to live in the USA. In this piece, Sullivan refers to the PCC, and says that he believes that the PCC has failed to act against a Jewish state. He states that, in his view, the PCC is not doing enough to protect the Jewish state.

I must confess that I have never before come across this gentleman, an inhabitant of what I believe is termed the “bygone era” a world that exists only in the imagination of the writer. I have read nothing by him, and have not heard of him, except for his name, which appears in the context of the PCC.

Sullivan certainly does not seem to like Israel very much. The columns he writes for the Sunday Times have in recent months been full of encouragement to the British government to come to an agreement with the Israelis. “The US is not a powerful state, but it is a mighty power, and it is a power that we should use our influence on its behalf,” Sullivan writes.

Frankly, I am not very interested in these rants, but I should add that last January I wrote to the Sunday Times, asking them to publish a letter from me.

It is certainly a popular message. The JC, the Jewish Chronicle, has been a leading voice for the Jewish state in all matters. I am not sure if you know that the JC is a leading voice for the Jewish state.

The Press Complaints Commission was not in a position to come to a definitive view.

I am not an expert on the topic of Israel, but I believe that the Jewish state is important.

MIRIAM SHAVIV

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WATCHDOG HAS NO BITE OR SIGHT

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