

The University of Sussex Union



FALMER HOUSE
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BRIGHTON
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BRIGHTON 64681

24-HOUR
ANSWERING
SERVICE
BRIGHTON 67285

7th October 1982

Mr. F. Howard,
Executive Member,
NUS,
3 Endsleigh Street,
LONDON WC1H 0DU

Dear Frank,

Three years ago Tony Greenstein, then an ex-student and ex-sabbatical of Brighton Polytechnic, produced a leaflet attacking personally two of the sabbaticals here at the Sussex Union. The leaflets were vile, inflammatory, and quite untrue, and Alan Christie, who was then Deputy Resident of NUS and Chairperson of the NUS Disputes Committee became involved and condemned Greenstein for the actions.

The following year Greenstein attacked a member of the Sussex delegation to NUS Conference (April 1981), was forcibly restrained by Graham Nicholas (then a Vice-President here), and was ultimately removed from the conference floor on the instructions of David Aaronovitch, who at the same conference, as I understand it, effectively banned both Greenstein and his organisation, BAZO, for "blurring the line between anti-zionism and anti-semitism".

Two months later, at the time of an occupation here at the University, Greenstein assaulted John Brooke-Rhodes, the NUPE Convenor on campus, and set off a fire alarm in Sussex House, the University's administrative building, for which the Union got the bill (over £100), the blame (the University was furious) and the need to apologise to the firemen of East Sussex who had turned out in large numbers and were less than pleased.

Last week as I understand it, Greenstein led the intimidation of a Brighton Polytechnic student, Brian Conn, who left his Jewish Society stall at Freshers Fair, in tears and thoroughly afraid, and who has not returned to the Poly since.

Last night you shared a platform with Mr. Greenstein. The meeting in question produced a motion so violent and one-sided as to lead to a number of Jewish students coming into my office today to protest, register their complaint, or confess to being just plain scared. A number of them said that they had heard that a member of NUS executive had been present, and was this true?

The answer became self-evident when the chairperson of the Union of Jewish Students phoned to say that you had given him a copy of the motion and did I know what was going on?

cont./....

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The answer is that I don't, and wonder whether you could help me? Why did you share a platform with Greenstein? Does it worry you to have shared a platform with Greenstein? Would you care to come to our Union General Meeting (12.45 p.m. Thursday 14th October) which will be considering the motion produced by last night's meeting, to oppose it? And finally could you tell me what NUS's position on Greenstein is? I ask this simply because if ever there were to be a list titled "enemies of NUS and the University of Sussex"(!), Greenstein would surely come top of the list. As a democratic institution we have no real procedure for barring people from the Union(though we do have a "No Platform" policy) and we would be interested to know if you have any ideas about what to do.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Savage
Vice-President

Copy to: Dr. Julius Carlebach, Jewish Chaplain, University of Sussex.
Sam Clarke, Chairperson UJS
Dave Hellens, President, University of Sussex Union
Dr. G. Lockwood, Registrar & Secretary, University of Sussex.
P. D. O'Reilly, Union Administrator, University of Sussex Union.
Neil Stewart, President, NUS
P. A. Tear, Deputy Secretary, University of Sussex.