

Letters To The Editor

Domestic and Dutch eruv issues

IT IS ABSOLUTELY untrue to assert, as Elizabeth Lawrence does (Letters, March 9), that neither the United Synagogue Eruv Committee nor Barnet Council has been able to arrange appropriate insurance. As a condition of the grant of the licence, Barnet Council required the eruv committee to put in place an insurance policy meeting specific criteria. This has been effected with a major insurance company.

Secondly, the erection and maintenance of eruv posts will be carried out by contractors approved by Barnet Council, to undertake similar work with the Council's own lamp posts, telegraph poles etc.

If the debate focused on real rather than phantom issues, and facts rather than inflammatory assertions as to what the eruv is and may lead to, it would be perfectly clear to all that the eruv is, as your recent editorial quite rightly pointed out, a benign institution which, when established, will benefit many thousands of Barnet residents and will harm no one.

EDWARD BLACK,
MEMBER, UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV
COMMITTEE,
WEST HEATH ROAD,
LONDON NW3.

I WAS SURPRISED and disappointed by your comments about Dr Rudi Vis, MP (JC, March 2).

Dr Vis, an active member of the Labour Friends of Israel, has been a true friend of the Jewish people all of his life.

Coincidentally, you have been receiving correspondence relating to the heroism of people in Holland during the Second World War. Perhaps not enough people know that Dr Vis's family in Holland hid Jewish fugitives from the Nazis during that war.

As a friend, Dr Vis is worried about all ghettos — which may attract anti-Semitism — and, perhaps like many of us who have learned about what happened in places like Warsaw, finds it difficult to comprehend why we should seek to impose one on ourselves.

I personally cannot comprehend how John Marshall can see this as "an election issue."

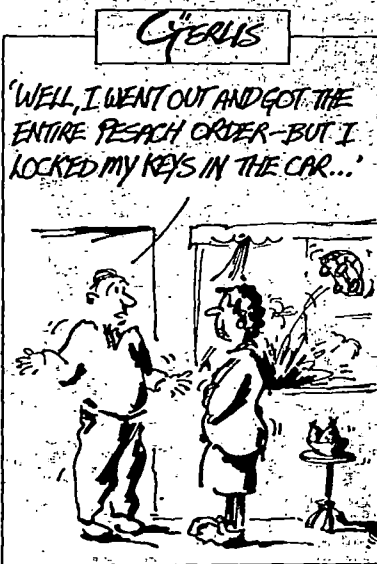
JEFFREY LAMPERT,
KINGSGATE AVENUE, LONDON N3.

I HAVE JUST read the following by the chronicler Moses Gans: "One of the important Sabbath restrictions concerns the carrying or conveying of objects outside the house, but in order to make this prohibition as tolerable as possible it was customary not to apply it to an enclosed town."

"Now The Hague was surrounded by water and might therefore have been considered to be enclosed had it not boasted a number of bridges. Chacham Sasportas [d. 1698] reports that the authorities agreed to change these to drawbridges, thus transforming the Hague into a closed city."

It is very sad that Rudi Vis MP, and your correspondents Zvi Friedman and Elizabeth Lawrence, are so much less tolerant of traditional Judaism than the Burgomasters of The Hague in the 17th century.

EDGAR SAMUEL
edgarsamuel@
woodsidepark.demon.co.uk



Rich and famous

AS A FOUNDER of the Oxford L'Chaim Society and a one-time friend of Rabbi Boteach, I found events at the Union inspired both intense

entourage at Blenheim. If "Michael" had called on him to endorse a new "Cuddle the Chimp Sanctuary" or "Love the don-

over one day to realise that Shmuel had taken the "Cheers" out of our "L'Chaim."

the south
ent app-
story. In
of heart