

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Scientific Temper

True to your scientific temperament. The second issue of UNDERSTANDING SIKHISM bears your stamp of meticulous research and methodical presentation. Since I have no pretensions to scholarship and even less claims on *Gurshikhi*, you do me undue honour by including my appraisal of Vaiskhi 1999 Celebration at Anandpur Sahib as a feature article. The Issue is lucid and easy on the eyes despite the philosophic nature of some of the articles. Their selection also underlines the global character of the Sikh religion. Indeed Dr Owen Cole had brought a team to India to experience the ambiance of holy places, and actually travelled up to Patna Sahib in homage to Guru Gobind Singh Ji. I trust your endeavors shall continue to flourish - regardless of the many handicaps - not the least of which plagues the Sikh politics in the Punjab, vitiating the moral environment.

*S. Saran Singh, Editor,  
The Sikh Review, Calcutta.*

### Prestigious Canadian Scholarly Sikh Journal

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your initiation on the journal; *Understanding Sikhism: The Research Journal*. This publication fills the void of a prestigious Canadian Scholarly Sikh Journal that addresses the concerns and issues of Sikhs on an international scale. It is befitting to know that you meet the challenge head on. It is another mark of celebration in the tercentennial anniversary of the order of the Khalsa.

It was a pleasure to meet you and receive the inaugural issue of the journal in Montreal and thank you again for arranging to deliver the second issue by hand as well. It is much appreciated.

I wish you success in your endeavors.

*Hon. Herb Dhaliwal, PC, MP,  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans,  
Government of Canada.*

### Service to Sikhism

Guru Fateh. I have received both volumes of the Journal and I feel very proud that you and others involved in its production have done a great service to Sikhism. I have reviewed only very briefly some of the articles and these are reflecting great efforts and research. I am grateful to all the authors for contributing such excellent talent and doing honor to the GURUS, GURBANI and Sikh history. Having seen

the intellect and wisdom finally before me in understandable manner, there are no words to express my jubilation. Thus, I will presently close by saying CONGRATULATIONS.

Wishing you the best.

*Avtar S. Dhaliwal,  
Johnson City, TN, USA*

### Fresh Breeze of Sikhi

I have just gone through your magazine, *Understanding Sikhism*. It is so very intoxicating like fresh breeze, having been through stink and stagnation from clergy and politicians alike for so long. Please keep it up and follow the Truth as said by *Gurbani*. Akal Purkh will bless you for the dare and upholding the banner of Truth.

Your attitude gives me great deal of hope that *Sikhi* will yet survive. I was afraid that our clergy was bent upon strangling that priceless gift of Guru Nanak - Gobind Singh, *Sikhi*, in the tangles of hair only. S. Ishar Singh once said: "ieh mzb n hoieAw, hoeI mom bqI ] ipgl igAw Porn, lgl Dup qqI ] jy bDI dwVI, qW mzb nUN Kqrw ] ieh mzb n hoieAw..."

*Dr JaiDev Singh Kohli,  
Nepean, ON, Canada*

### Meat Eating

S.Saran Singh has remarked in his letter to the editor "though matters of marginal or peripheral importance like 'halal' need not have been juxtaposed with, for example 'Pathway to spirituality'." In my opinion nothing should be pushed under the carpet, as has been the tradition in India. This attitude has already done more than enough harm to Sikhism. Another burning question has been about to eat or not to eat meat. Both groups - those in favour of eating and those who are against it, quote scripture in support of position taken in this matter. Children growing in lands where freedom is taken for granted, are not satisfied with state of affairs in Sikhism. Most of the parents are in a dilemma and the priestly class has nothing to offer which satisfies the quest for correct information of the younger generation of Sikhs. Sikh intellectuals feel shy of talking about any rational solution of this problem. For instance, *Guru ka langar* was one of the pivotal institutions to demonstrate equality among Sikhs.

*Dr Sarjeet Singh Sandhu,  
2566 Waterbury Lane, Boise, ID, USA*