

Chapter formed at York

Professors work for lasting Mideast peace

By LORNE WASSER
The Canadian professors for peace in the Middle East has recently formed a chapter at York. According to law professor Norman May, chairman of the York branch, the association's purpose is to establish a "just and lasting peace" between Israel and the Arab states.

"Since they are articulate, professors have the opportunity to inform the public of the Middle East situation," said Sally Zerker, a member of the association and a York professor. "Our group is important to anyone who is interested in peace and who wants to air his views and listen to others who are well-versed

in the situation. The organization is a medium through which this can take place."

May explained that the professors hope to explain the issues to the Canadian public through discussions, lectures, and books, and by conducting study tours of the Middle East.

"Our organization cannot be said to have the power to alter the face of the earth," said Zerker. "But we intend to affect awareness and this may alter its face. In a free society, people must be knowledgeable and informed in order to affect the political process."

According to May, the Canadian professors for peace do not recognize any aggressor in the Middle East. They are not concerned with past morality, but with peace. He stressed that territorial concessions or partisanship disputes should be ignored in

working out a settlement; the prime objective in a peace agreement is peace itself, nothing more.

May pointed out that the association has adopted no particular solutions to the Middle East situation.

But Zerker defended its ability to make a contribution to peace while having no set views on how this should be done. She explained that "there has been some modification on the part of some Arab states who have not formally recognized the state of Israel and it is upon this basis that our hopes rest for a just and lasting peace."

"And it's not true that we have no opinions - we have a variety of opinions and perspectives coming from various fields of scholarship and personal biases. But we take as our first principle the legitimacy of the state of Israel."

Zerker added that "personally, I don't see Israel as the aggressor in the Middle East. Granted, there have been aggressive acts on both sides."

"But aggressor implies initiator, and from the beginning of this conflict the elimination of the state of Israel has been the stated aim of the Arab states. With this in mind, they have acted as the aggressor. But Israel has not been the initiator; therefore, I don't see Israel as an aggressor."

The association is open to anyone with some academic affiliation. Membership is currently approximately 40 per cent Jewish, with such well-known non-Jewish members as Judy La Marsh, Gerald LeDain and Charles Best. There are chapters of the association at several other Canadian universities, including the University of Toronto, Carleton and McGill.

"We don't want to deceive ourselves into thinking we are very significant in this complex problem," said Zerker. "But if we are persuasive enough to convince others to act in accordance with our statement of purpose, we will be satisfied."

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Brandeis rabbi speaks in Ross

Rabbi Albert Axelrad, Hillel Rabbi at Brandeis University, will speak at York on March 18, sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation, on The Israeli - Arab conflict: a critical Zionist perspective, at 4 p.m. in Ross S 869.

Christian books open for study

Bibles, concordances, and Christian Science publications are available for anyone interested in using them for research or study purposes in the Christian Science Organization's headquarters in 030-B Winters College.

Calgary search

The bloodhounds are out. If you are a past member of Junior Achievement of Calgary, contact the club at 240 11th Avenue S.W. in Calgary (263-2545) and turn up at their banquet on April 26. It's part of Calgary's centennial celebrations.

Summer jobs for students on visas

How can a foreign student renew his or her student visa? What are the chances of obtaining a work permit? At the invitation of the York International Student Centre, D. Adamson, unit supervisor of admissions at Manpower and Immigration, will speak on the topic, Summer Jobs for Students on Student Visas, Tuesday, March 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Curtis LH-C.

A question period will follow, and all are welcome.

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