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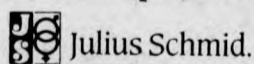
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LETTERS

GENUINE FILMMAKERS

In regard to your "editorial" in the Thursday, January 21, 1982, Vol. 16, No. 17 issue of this paper: York film students are not comfortable; they do not want to be "American" filmmakers; the Canadian panelists discussing film with Norbert Kueckelmann (German filmmaker) did not criticize him for dealing with contemporary surroundings; our young filmmakers do not model themselves after REDS or Warren Beatty (but I'm sure many of them, I like myself, admire him and his film); and the film students at York did know that Mr. Kueckelmann was speaking - no one can say how much they cared.

Your wildly incorrect statement attempts to assert that listening to Mr. Kueckelmann would help us to develop a Canadian cinematic identity whereas listening to Warren Beatty would not. In many people's opinion both these talented filmmakers have done a good job revealing things about their respective countries, and both of them are equally irrelevant to any issue of "Canadian cinematic identity", if it's an issue at all.

Sometimes our cat pees in the snow. I may not like the look of it or the sound of it (if I'm able to hear such subtleties) but I hope I'm never so pretentious as to go over and try to tell the cat that what it just eliminated from its body was not cat-pee, not urine of genuine feline nature.

Perhaps few, if any, films made by Canadians are just the way I'd like them to be; but, come to think of it, no film ever is - not even my own. I certainly hope all Canadians don't start making films the way I think they should.

I wonder if Ingmar Bergman was really making "Swedish" films? Perhaps when he picked topics that revolved around inner turmoil and self-doubts he was robbing purely Canadian ideas and attitudes. That bastard; and so many people admire him as a great Swedish filmmaker!

My guess is that Canadian films will be made by Canadian filmmakers and each one will be different. Our film students take part in this process by working very hard to produce films that they care about, whether anyone else thinks it's the right or wrong thing to care about. Maybe those who did not attend the Kueckelmann panel had already seen his films that were shown previously and met him earlier that day at a scheduled encounter you could not have known about. Even you would not recommend that your film students spend all their time at panels and screenings. Even you would want them to eventually go out and try to make a good film, because you care so much about the Canadian film identity. Eh?

Michael Kennedy,
Faculty Member
York Film Department

GAUDET'S IMPEACHMENT

While I realize that a response to Gaudet's impeachment challenge lends him credibility he needs, his accusations are without merit.

How Gaudet can charge that I have ignored my mandate is beyond me considering his performance in office to date. His "red elephant" the "fan Van" is great for him going to and from university, maybe he can pick me up next time on his way to school. I do not expect Gaudet or Excalibur to have any notion of my level of participation at Board of Governor's meetings because

neither have even attended one. I admit to missing Board meetings while I was at my summer job. I never denied this nor do I feel that because of this I have "ignored my mandate". Gaudet has a very naive and unrealistic assessment of student effectiveness being measured by the number of meetings attended.

I had tried to avoid criticizing Gaudet out of courtesy to him because I was his predecessor in office. My "no comment" stance has made me a public target. I suggest he should salvage what is left of his term with something constructive. More communication with the colleges and some organization would be a step in the right direction.

Malcolm Montgomery
BOG rep.

SCIENTIFIC PRAISE

I am writing this letter in regards to Anderson Lookin's article in the Science Section of your December 10, 1981 issue, entitled "Recombinant DNA: Designer Genes."

Although I wasn't aware of York's Biology Department or for that matter the Farquharson Building despite the "old saying", I do like designer genes! I had heard of DNA but I didn't appreciate its meaning. Looking did a great job of making it a lot clearer. I even dazzled a friend by explaining the role of Deoxyribonucleic Acid and that Recombinant DNA is no more complex than groups of atoms from different species.

I feel a surge of pride that York is more than just an Arts University. This work is even more impressive than Osgoode's Law and more interesting. I look forward to the Science page every time I read Excalibur. I also enjoy the adventures of E.C. Niecs, let's here more from him. Keep up the good work.

W. Peters

APPALLED AT NAIVETY

In reply to Joel Baum's letter (in the name of some supposed committee), I am honestly appalled at his narrow scope. It is precisely the result of such isolationist, egocentric thought (and consequent policies) that many of the atrocities of our past were perpetrated with little or no external opposition. At this point in history when technology allows for rapid communication, and the vast degree of economic interdependence renders the capability to apply pressure, we have not only the means, but also the responsibility, to voice objection to flagrant violations of basic human rights.

Mr. Baum's 'worry' over "letting Canada fall to pieces" shows that he, like most fortunate Canadians, hasn't an inkling of the word "suffering". And I am sincerely happy (for him) that he doesn't. But let not this naivety blind us to what is going on outside our own tranquil existence.

Randy Tischler

ANGST-RIDDEN

Thanks for your letter, and for the copies of Excalibur, and for the interview you published.

"Honest-ridden" is probably a better word than the one I used, angst-ridden.

Had a good few days in Toronto, though I was sad not to have enough time to put on my entire repertoire. Do you think the student union or some group at York U. would fund a reading by me? I'm arranging my schedule for late-winter and spring.

In any case, very best wishes,
Ed Sanders