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COME AND SEE

Students discuss Mid East

BY ED PIWOWARCZYK

"Although I'm not a Middle East analyst, I don't believe any proposed ceasefire or peace plan will work; both sides are stalling for time," said Mike Luther, assistant editor of Masada and member of the York Jewish Student Federation in the inaugural edition of Radio York's bear-pit sessions Thursday.

Luther was joined by federation members Linda Ross, the interim chairman, and Paul Tiefenbach. Radio York's Rick Leswick Moderated.

The Central Square lunchtime audience was invited to ask questions or comment on the Middle East crisis.

Asked why Israel accepted the ceasefire when it appeared to be making gains, Luther replied: "Israel wants peace in the Middle East, but is also concerned about world opinion. They had previous knowledge of the attack but allowed it to come off."

"When I heard of the ceasefire," said Ross, "I had two conflicting emotions. My immediate hope was that the killing might be stopped and the quarrels taken to the negotiating table instead of the battlefield. But at the same time the old fear arose that it was only words on a piece of paper that would never come to be."

In discussing possible peace strategies, Luther stated: "Personally I think the main issue is the Palestinian issue, but you need some solution in military terms as neither side will accept a buffer zone."

Tiefenbach, assessing the possibility of peacekeeping by the major powers, said, "A peacekeeping force composed of Russia and the United States would only more quickly bring to a head any major power confrontation."

Ross added, "Everybody concerned should sit face-to-face without any intervention and discuss their problems."

Luther took up the issue of current Russian interest in Mid-East affairs, stating, "Originally, Russia was one of the only powers to support and arm Israel in 1948 when other nations were arming the Arabs. The Soviets saw Israel as a Middle Eastern satellite since it was founded on socialist principles."

"But when the situation changed and the Arabs nationalized oil the Soviets saw a chance to capitalize. They allied themselves with the oil sheikhs, and the Arabs furnished ports where the Soviets could counter-balance the American presence. They also hoped to get a stranglehold on oil to blackmail the United States and Western Europe."

The increased Arab military strength in the current conflict came under scrutiny. Tiefenbach observed, "It was a completely different army. In 1967 it was a war of attrition for the Arabs where emotion was the motivating factor. In 1973 they were trained, well-balanced and knew what they wanted to accomplish. It was not the same type of war; they were fighting a very equal war."

Added Ross, "The Israelis themselves admit they were too over-confident. They were waiting and lost the advantage of being the first to attack. Also, the holiday circumstances increased the time needed to mobilize."

With the advent of the war, the JSF became active and vocal in soliciting funds. Why were they, in Leswick's words, "bringing the battle to Central Square?"

Ross responded, "With the embargoes facing Israel and only U.S. support, we felt we had to do something. The funds go for purely economic purposes like social services. It was also an attempt to make people aware of the situation."

York Briefs

Stong series to feature women

The second edition of the Stong Fellows Series will be called "WOW! or Women on Women." Virginia Rock, Stong College master, Judith Lawrence, coordinator of Women for Political Action and a puppeteer for the CBS show "Mr. Dressup," and Stong College don Linda Kroll will speak in the Stong senior common room at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5.

Law prof to talk on nationalism

Law professor I. Feltham will speak on economic nationalism today at 4 p.m. in the eighth floor faculty lounge of the Ross Building. The lecture is the third in the President's Fortnightly Forum series, initiated by Dr. Yolton to provide faculty members an opportunity to discuss their current research projects with members of the community.

Outdoors Club plans hike today

The Bethune and Calumet Outdoors Club will plan its Nov. 4 hike on Bruce Trail today in the Bethune College 3rd floor Common Room.

Want to be an overseas volunteer?

If you're interested in a three to ten month working and learning experience as an overseas volunteer, you might be interested in Canadian Crossroads International. The group is meeting Monday, November 5 at 2 p.m. in 214 Bethune. Call Alison Vipond at 488-3396 for more information.

Beatle stomper to visit Bearpit

Brian Rudd, an evangelist and ex-drug pusher, will be the guest at today's Bearpit Session at noon in Central Square. Rudd has blamed the Beatles for "turning three million teen-teen-agers on to drugs."

Guests to lecture on education

Dr. Murray G. Ross is bringing two guest lecturers to his Sociology 357 class. On Tuesday, Nov. 6 Dr. Martin Trow, sociology professor at the University of California at Berkeley, will speak on "The Change from Elite to Mass Higher Education." The following Tuesday, Nov. 13, Sir Toby Weaver will discuss "Recent Changes in Higher Education in Britain."

The class meets from 2-4 in Room 112 McLaughlin. Seats are available for honours and graduate sociology students and interested faculty members. For tickets phone 667-667-3235.



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