

Critics should learn facts before they condemn

It seems that if some of the students at York aren't preoccupied with displaying their ignorance on washroom walls, they're busy displaying it in Central Square. I refer to the treatment given the members of the York University Homophile Association at a display table in Central Square. Someone actually threw an apple core at them because he's better than they are.

This table was set up by the Homophile Association last week in an attempt to enlighten York students concerning the nature and aims of the association. Unfortunately, those who needed enlightenment most chose, at best, to ignore the whole thing. And in a university where many choose to learn it's a shame that so many choose to remain ignorant.

But in any case, let's set the record straight.

A homophile is not a person whose blood does not clot. A homophile,

whether male or female, simply prefers a member of the same sex in an emotional and sexual relationship.

A homophile does not necessarily dress in women's clothes. That is transvestitism - not homosexuality. The association of the two has created an unfair stereotype for homosexuals, and most of today's movies encourage such stereotyping.

Homophiles don't bite, have limp wrists or falsetto voices. A homophile is neither sick nor degenerate, but misunderstood, perhaps owing to society's omnipotent labelling compulsion.

On Saturday, October 19 the Toronto Star carried an editorial elucidating their policy regarding the advertising of homosexual literature. The Star refuses to carry advertisements for such literature claiming said literature attempts to convert young children. A few days later the Toronto Sun carried an

editorial in unprecedented support of the Star and its stand on the issue.

The Star's objection was based entirely on one particular item that appeared in the Body Politic, a publication of interest to homosexuals. On the following Saturday the entire letter's page of the Star was inundated with the opinions of concerned citizens regarding seduction of our nation's children. About 90 per cent of the letters supported the Star's policy.

This discriminatory measure is unwarranted. Children don't read the Body Politic and neither do most of those who agreed with the Star.

But here at York there is no discrimination. If you are prepared to

accept rejection, ridicule and hostility you are free to express your opinion and display your cause.

And despite the reaction the Homophile Association met with last week they will again be setting up a display in a further attempt to enlighten students and make known their presence.

Aha. They're masochistic as well as subnormal. That's right. They like to be strapped to bedposts and whipped, trod upon by spike-heeled, thigh-high leather boots and forced to eat broken jars of vaseline. All masochists do. In fact, masochists like anything you think they like. Just like all homophiles are what you think they are. Aren't

they?

But the purpose of this article is not to advocate homosexuality, offer support for the YUHA or effectively criticize students at York, or anywhere else for that matter.

It is merely an appeal to some of the students to get the facts straight before they condemn things they know little about. Prejudice due to ignorance is hard for groups like the YUHA to overcome, and the students here at York shouldn't make it any harder.

For further information about the YUHA contact them through the CYSF (667-2515) or at Harbinger (667-3509).

Canada's actions support junta

By BRIAN WEAGANT

The Canadian programme for immigration is being actively implemented in the case of Chilean refugees; however, if not for the work of certain members of parliament, the Canadian government might never have responded to the refugee dilemma.

John Harney, York professor of humanities, was one such member; in a recent interview, Harney explained the Canadian government's position on Chile immediately after the coup.

When the issue of refugees was raised in the fall of 1973, Mitchell Sharp dismissed the issue with a

claim that there was no refugee problem. The issue was raised again, but this time with information gained from sources that suggested there was a very real problem.

Only then, and after considerable prodding did the department of external affairs activate a more favourable foreign policy with regard to immigration.

Harney speculated that Sharp ignored the issue because he was truly ignorant of the situation in Chile. This however, was unlikely; Harney suggested it was because Canadian foreign policy coincides very well with American foreign policy, and Sharp's department "has never acted in such a way as to offend the United States".

Subsequently, Canada extended its present immigration policy. This does not mean however, that Canada has denounced the Chilean military junta, said Harney. In fact, Canada now collaborates with American-dominated multilateral organizations (such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund) which extend economic aid to the junta.

During Allende's presidency, however, Canada had severed economic relations with Chile, and after the junta resumed them. Sharp's department insisted that Canadian policy in this case was free from political considerations, and that the Canadian government did not want to risk aid on a 'shaky economy' such as the one under Allende.

Harney said, "I just don't believe political considerations did not enter the picture" Whatever the reason for Canada's about-face, he said, their reversed policy and extended financial aid to Chile help the military junta survive.

York's Chile Solidarity Committee is holding a Chile Day at York on November 19, to educate York students and give them a chance to express their support for the Chilean people.

Jobs overseas

Canadian Crossroads International offers the opportunity to work overseas for three to 10 months. The emphasis is on international understanding and intercultural cooperation. There will be an information meeting at the U of T International Students Centre, 33 St. George St., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact Alison Vipond at 488-3396.

UFW meeting

There will be an informational meeting on November 11 at 7:30 p.m. at 891 Wilson Ave. (UAW Local 112) for anyone interested in the United Farm Workers' cause and its bearing on Canadian labour.

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