

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

JDL DENOUNCED

As an Israeli and a Jew I find it is essential to denounce the aggressive act and attitude of the Jewish Defence League towards these Palestinians who try to bring forth their argument.

All arguments and opinions are valid if Canada is supposedly a democracy and people must be able to express themselves freely without fear of being attacked because of their opinion. All differences of opinion must be settled by means of peaceful negotiations, not violence as occurred on November 9th. Neither side is clean of aggressive acts, but lately there has been mutual respect and talks have been held between Jewish and Moslem students.

Respect, talks and negotiations are the only means of communication which must be seen as acceptable to the York community. Aggression of any sort, from either side, must never be acceptable in this community and has to be rooted out immediately.

I would also like to add that to the best of my knowledge, most of the Jewish students at York do not share the Jewish Defence League's aggressive attitude of solving differences of opinion.

Ofer Arad

U.S. DUPLICITY

Barbara Frum's interview of Jimmy Carter on the Journal raises serious questions both about the alleged adversarial role of the press vis-a-vis the government and Canada's ability to think independently and critically of American foreign policy. Far from seeking to expose

Carter's obvious duplicity, Frum was obsequious and complicit in his attempts to foster a totally self-serving image of the United States. How can such toadyism be passed off as responsible journalism on our most intelligent network? How can our supposedly free and critical press swallow Carter's gross hypocrisy with scarcely a murmur of dissent? No wonder Canada is regarded as a puppet of the United States by much of the world today. It seems we are incapable of discerning even their most blatant cynicism and accept at face value their own self-image as defenders of international morality. Keep a straight face when suggesting that Carter might have been "too nice" to be President? How nice is it to advocate pushing Poland into bankruptcy and social chaos? Or how nice is it to grimly speak of the American option of "wiping Iran off the map"--an option Carter rejected not because of its inherent criminality but because of concern for the American hostages and of relations with its NATO allies. And how can Carter's assertion that the United States was seeking to democratize the Shah's rule pass unchallenged when only seconds before he had

stated that the United States sought to strengthen the Iranian military, then committed to a policy of massacring and torturing civilian opposition? I do not believe Frum is too stupid to have seen through Carter's sanctimonious deceptions and can only conclude that moral cowardice impeded her questioning them. That our national network should perpetrate such shallow American propaganda is scandalous and only contributes to the unthinking acceptance of American foreign policy by Canadians.

Incidentally, Frum's characterization of Iran as "a 5th-rate power" is a further shameful capitulation to American myth-making. With a population of 35 million and armed forces equipped with the most sophisticated American weaponry, Iran was, and possibly still is, the most powerful nation in the Middle East outside of Israel. It would probably have put Canada to shame in that respect, and therefore wiping it off the map would not have been quite as simple as Mr. Human Rights implied.

Mark Epprecht
York University

OBJECTION

In your edition of 11 November you published the following, in bold-face:

"WARNING in re "In Search of a Sun"

Excalibur has learned that the show is the first part of a two part series which is designed to promote the Christian religion....The ads...do not effectively communicate the intent of the programme. Anyone expecting an "entertainment" event should be advised that the first was followed by a discussion and that the second will carry a "Christain message."

Thank you, *Excalibur*, for your conscientious and timely exposure of the awful possibility that someone might push -- of all things -- a Christian message as part of entertainment. One can't be too careful with these religious fanatics. And what else could they be, after all?

May we expect the same stern vigilance from *Excalibur* about the anti-Christian content or 'message' of many of the other musical

'entertainments' advertised in your pages? If you tell me that they're "just entertainment" and that the anti-Christian message is, as it were, incidental, I reply: How do you know?

My advice: Either get out of the warning business or be more comprehensive and even-handed in carrying it out.

Yours sincerely,
T.W. Olson

Editors' Note: Our objection was not with the 'Christian message' - obviously, all groups have the right to express themselves - we believe, however, that intentions should be made clear.

Both Editors attended the film and spoke at length with its producers and organisers before printing the warning.

DISILLUSIONED

I don't mean to sound very strange or anything, but all this hatred being exchanged between various cultural and religious groups at York University is quite unsettling.

I'm a first year student, and perhaps I was wrong when I assumed a few months ago that a University

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