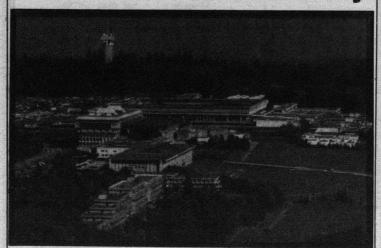
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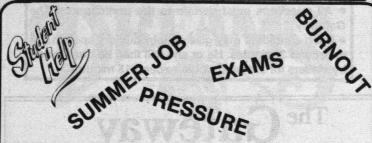
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OPENS FRIDAY MARCH 21st AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

Opinion



Black.

General Motors is manufacturing some cars that are totally black. They aren't just painted black. Their trim is black. Their interiors can be black. Black glass is available for their headlights. Hearses look cheerier.

These cars are miniature black holes. They travel along blacktopped roads, catching light. And, most importantly, they also catch the eye. Therefore, these new black boxes are selling well. People like unusual cars. Edsels. Corvairs, and Nash Metropolitans are being restored while other, better-selling, vehicles of their eras are abandoned and left to rust in junkyards, fields, and airport parking lots.

It is interesting to note that the Metropolitan itself has an unusual colour scheme. The car is a two-tone, as so many cars of the mid-fifties were. The first colour is always white. But the second is usually turquoise or salmon. In all fairness to the designers at Nash, those colours were not as unusual on cars in the fifties as

they are now

Tastes have changed. Today, it would be a shock to see a new turquoise car. Turquoise houses are also out of fashion. But, in some circles, turquoise hair would fit in very well. And turquoise-and-salmon Hawaiian shirts are in style with almost everyone.

Changing tastes have also made it safe to use a colour which has been unpopular for years. Purple, once the colour of royalty, is now best known as the colour of a cow which remains unseen and a oneeyed, one-horned, flying people eater. In the late seventies, a riot almost broke out in Los Angeles when an Arabian oil mogul painted his mansion purple. But when rock star Prince painted his house purple recently, no bomb threats were phone in. People just muttered "eccentric" and went on with their business. If purple's popularity continues to increase at this rate, it will replace white as the most popular colour for new cars in 1999.

When the Model T was first being mass-produced, Henry Ford said that the car could be "any colour you like, as long as it's black." It did, however, have some brass trim. Today's General Motors blackmobiles

But if that colour scheme is what the people want, it was pretty smart of somebody at GM to come up with

Thank you but...a column defended

by Shaun Cody

It is with a mixture of indignation and fascination that I have watched the response to my commentary Methuselah Revisited (Gateway, March 6, 1986). My confidence in the reading comprehension of Gate-

way readers has taken a beating.

Susan Huxley, in her In defense of age (Gateway, Letters, March 11, 1986), is selective in her interpretation of my column. If I am so disrespectful of elders, what about John Crosbie and the other P.C.'s attempting to de-index pensions? Did that not display "both disrespect for elders and restricted vision?" Furthermore, are elders more sacred than the young? Are they entitled to preferential treatment simply by virtue of being older than most of us?

Huxley fails to note several qualifications I introduce. Descartes would have a field day with Ms. Huxley; she fits his analysis so well: "in all these ways we are much more greatly influenced by custom and example than by any certain knowledge." Huxley sees age and wisdom as synonymous. I don't. She feels only the aged have experience, I disagree. Regarding university graduates, she notes "Given time and experience these people will contribute much to society." Oh, great. "Given time?" How much? How long must they remain underemployed? How long must they put their dreams on hold? And how are they to acquire Huxley's vaunted experience if they are unable to work in their chosen field?

Huxley urges "Be patient, Mr. Cody, every dog has his day." Martin Luther King was told wait, your time will come. He wrote: "Such an attitude stems from a tragic misconception of time, from the strangely irrational notion that there is something in the very flow of time that will inevitably cure all ills. Actually, time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively." What will it be, Ms. Huxley?

D.E.M. O'cracy bolstered my hate mail tally with his letter In defense of the aged, Gateway, March 18, 1986. He also has that ability to read, understand, and critique what he doesn't like while ignoring points against his arguments. In 1. he worries about people who must work to pay their mortgage after putting their children ("like you", he wrongly assumes) through university. Brain up, D.E. Did they have children when they were 40? Even if that were so,



their children would be 25 when those poor parents had to retire. In 2. I deny asserting that people over 65 years "are not eager, not enthusiastic, nor qualified." I confess to saying that young people are all of the above. Nor did I define personal satisfaction for other people. I explicitly said, "Granted, many people receive immense gratification and satisfaction from their work and do not want to leave it.'

3. I do not say that people are necessarily inefficient, etc. when they are over 65. But more are, simply as a result of the aging process.

4. Your quote is made up. At no point do I ever write, "only for personal satisfaction who selfishly deny a living to young Canadians." Facts? Objectivity? And cut the rhetoric about "blaming the victim" and "inciting hatred."

I would like to thank Susan Huxley and D.E.M. O'cracy for their responses; I congratulate them for presenting their feelings, however discordant with mine they may be. As it it said, it would be a dull world if we all agreed on things. Democracy and free speech not only allow but, in fact, require different values and viewpoints if they are to have worth.

It is admirable that Huxley and D.E.M. O'cracy show the concern to make known their viewpoints. Tolerance and understanding require not that we all hold the same values, but that we respect and accept those that differ from our own.

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