

Censorship continued . . .

Excalibur: Do you believe the board sees itself as a peer group to the seven million residents of Ontario?

Cunningham: I would think they are a peer group. We all come from pretty diverse backgrounds and we certainly have very different opinions I can assure you. We have some very heated discussions about decisions. I do think we represent a broad spectrum of the public . . .

We have on occasion called in members of the justice department to advise us of the legality of certain decisions we are going to make or maybe to look at a certain section of a film and advise us whether it's within the criminal code of Canada or not. But even after we get that advice the decision is still up to us and the responsibility is ours. On other occasions we have called in members of the department of health to advise us on scenes we have seen in films depicting certain situations in hospitals, mental hospitals for instance. But apart from that I don't think we get too involved.

Excalibur: What about the argument that if you abolished film censorship today, people would flock to the theatres for six months, then stop going because of boredom?

Cunningham: I'm inclined to think that this is true.

Excalibur: How do you reconcile that with your position here?

Cunningham: Well we still have to work within the criminal code of Canada. And certain acts are definitely taboo. It doesn't take much imagination to visualize something that might happen on the screen and there'd be no question about getting a conviction in court.

Excalibur: So in that capacity you are essentially defending the movie producer and distributor?

Cunningham: Well, not defending. But I think we are good protection for them because I think that most of the films that have been submitted to this office and been given a certificate are reasonably free from any sort of harassment from police departments or officialdom. Now this doesn't mean that the police can't act. They can still go in, seize a picture, and lay a charge.

Excalibur: Has the board ever made a mistake?

Cunningham: Oh God, lots of mistakes. Yes . . . we've become more liberal over the years, but we have to be nudged a little bit. It's much easier to be pushed into a liberal position than to back up. Let's say a situation occurs in a film we're not sure about so we decide to take a chance on it. And maybe we don't hear a damn thing about it and we figure we did the right thing so that ever after we don't worry about a scene or situation like that. But if we're subjected to a number of complaints in all probability the next time something like that turns up we'll take a very close look at it. We'll be very careful. So we are being nudged in the direction the public wants us to go. And we hope this is what we are doing. You know, reflecting what the public wants.

Excalibur: You also are in control of all film advertising in most media. What is your role in this regard with the department of consumer affairs?

Cunningham: We have no relationship whatsoever. Ever since the office was started, the advertising campaign was considered as a package deal with the film. And a film is not released and never has been released until the advertising campaign has been submitted.

Excalibur: Do you have any control over ads which falsify information? For instance, The Godfather was advertised as \$3 and people got to the box office and found the admission price was \$3.50.

Cunningham: That's unfortunate. We had a number of complaints about that and we don't really have any control over it. But I think this department — not this branch — but the department of consumer affairs would have something to say about that. As it stands we have no control over admission prices. They switched the prices right in the middle of a performance.

Excalibur: Do you get any complaints about the chauvinism of the censorship board? One doesn't need an armful of statistics to see that the board allows much greater female nudity than male.

Cunningham: I think this changing though I do agree with you that up until recently this was true — Well, first of all we didn't allow nudity at all in females. It's been coming in over the years. First we allowed a little breast shot then a rear end shot then a long shot of total nudity and now you get, unless it's undue emphasis, a close-up of the pubic area of a woman, and we let it go through. Long shots of men running around nude have more or less been allowed but in some recent movies we've been allowing shots of testicles, but there again we use the same yardstick. If it's a close-up, no undue emphasis on the testicles.

Excalibur: Considering that more than 50 per cent of the movie going public is under 30 years of age don't you think there's serious potential for the board to be out of touch with that public in light of the age of board members?

Cunningham: I agree with you. I think in the future when appointments are to be made younger people will be brought in. Now, you see, the latest appointment was Doug Walker and he's about 30. I think all future appointments will be from among younger people.

Excalibur: Can you see the board getting into the position of banning a picture which the rest of the film going world has accepted, even though it may be with eliminations, like the Alberta board with A Clockwork Orange?

Cunningham: Alberta has also banned Portnoy's Complaint. But I feel, whether it's right or wrong, that the distributor will cash in on all the publicity he can, for I feel those pictures will eventually be shown in Alberta. I doubt if a situation like that would happen here. I'm pretty sure if it did happen there'd be something wrong with this board. It'd be time for a change no matter what the age of the members.



YORK UNIVERSITY
THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AND LEARN ENGLISH OR FRENCH

Federal Bursary Language Program

A special grant has made available opportunities for full-time students to take a 6-week "intensive" in-residence course at our Glendon Campus (Bayview & Lawrence) this summer. DATES: July 3 — August 10, 1973

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE SENT BY JUNE 1 to:

The Centre for Continuing Education
York University
4700 Keele Street
Downsview, Ontario

OR TELEPHONE 667-2507 FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION.

Halcyon™ WATERBEDS

7 STYLES ON
DISPLAY TO SUIT
ANY DECOR OR BUDGET

Freeform Interiors

2110 YONGE 489-7600

a "mini course"
means
a better job
and
more pay

The Shaw Accelerated Business Course is designed for people going places in a hurry.

An exclusive program for students who meet minimum requirements. A "no nonsense" 6 month comprehensive business training for High School Honour Graduates, College and University transfers, or graduates who plan to enter the job market as quickly as possible and at a level comparable to their abilities.

ABC graduates will tell you "it's the combination of academic training and practical business skills that make real success possible."

Remember, it's your future . . . you decide how far, how fast you want to go.

"simple as A B C"

DROP IN MAIL

I want to find myself at Shaw Colleges. Please send me information

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ AGE: _____

EDUCATION: _____

SHAW COLLEGES

ADMISSIONS OFFICE
2436 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario 481-6477
M4P 2H4

1826 EY

The Paulists are helping to build the earth.

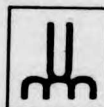
downtown
on the campus
in the parish
in the office
building bridges
working with
the young and old
spreading the
Christian spirit,
praying
celebrating
counseling

North American
priests on the
move throughout
Canada and
the United States.

For more information write:
Father Donald C. Campbell,
Room 101CA.

Paulist Fathers.

647 Markham Street
Toronto 174, Ontario



Université de Montréal

Service d'éducation permanente, Ecole Française d'Été
C.P. 6128, Montréal 101, Québec, Canada

Learn French
Where French is at home
École Française d'été 1973
July 2nd to August 10, 1973

l'université de montréal

In the largest French-speaking university on the continent, you learn French where French is at home.

methods

The latest audio-visual methods are used with beginners; advanced students work in seminars.

advanced level

Special attention is given to English-speaking French teachers; to students of French literature and to people wishing to know more about Québec.

living accommodations

Rooms are available for men and women in students' residences or with French speaking families.

activities

French-Canadian life discovered through folk singing evenings, theatre visits, excursions into the typical Québec countryside and sightseeing walks through historic old Montréal. Facilities for sports activities.

scholarships available

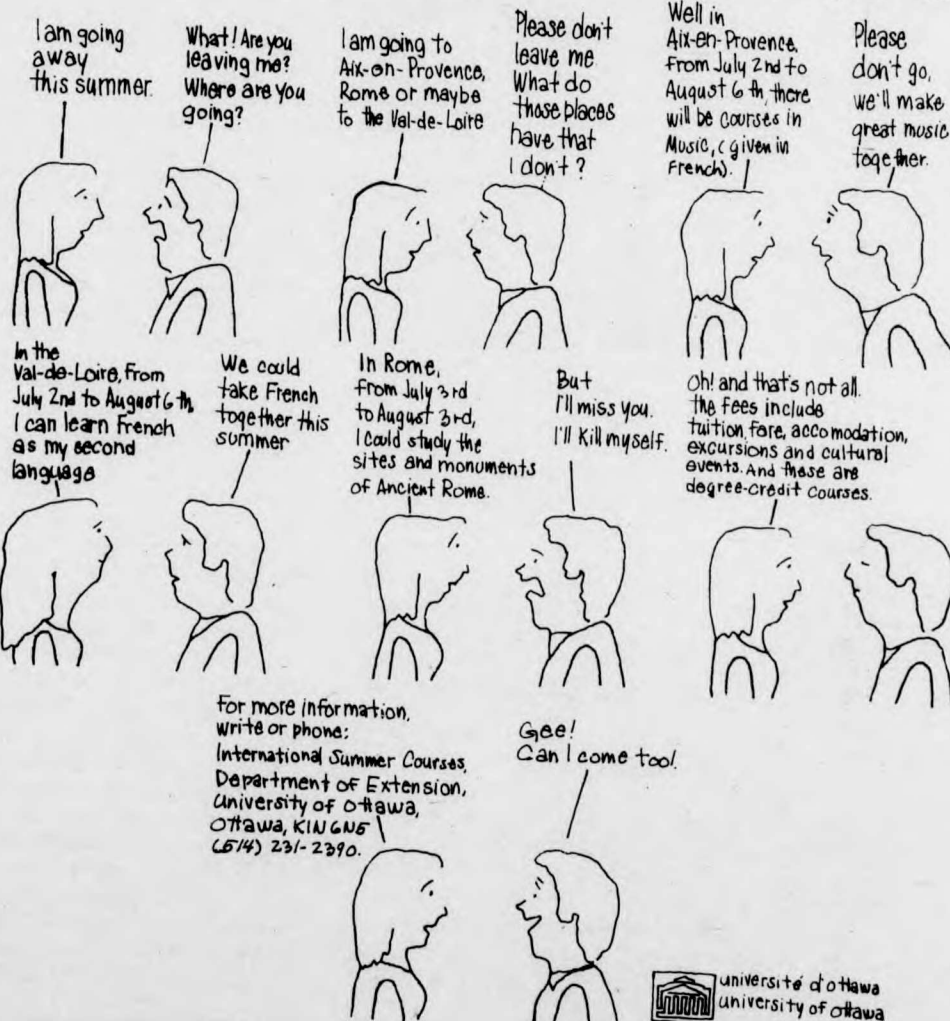
L'Université de Montréal offers 8 scholarships of \$275 each. Four of these scholarships will be awarded to English-speaking students and four to students of French origin residing outside the Province of Québec.

L'Université de Montréal is also a participating institution in the Federal-Provincial bursary program.

Booklet on request.

"The Grand Tour"

by the University of Ottawa



université d'ottawa
university of ottawa