

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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So much hot air has been expended with respect to the Bipin Lakhani situation, that the two issues at hand--both of which relate to the propriety of his actions--have in themselves become redundant. However, there are a couple of crucial points that have been overlooked.

The first concerns what would be best termed a distortion of the pertinent facts. What is in question here is not Lakhani's right to his own political opinions. No person with a shred of concern for civil liberties can deny him that privilege. What does matter is that his use of the CYSF's facilities in producing the posters under discussion constitutes a blatant abuse of the powers entrusted to him. This matter transcends the simple financial aspects: It is, in actuality, a question of morality. It is unnecessary to invoke moral judgement however--the fact that his actions are so overtly *questionable* tarnishes his

reputation beyond the point where he should be deemed worthy of public office.

The other element of confusion is the unfortunately divisive ideological line that has been drawn between left- and right-wingers over this issue. Again, it goes beyond a simple question of the Jewish community versus the Arab and Moslem communities or whoever. There are parties on both sides who are viewing the whole situation with myopically dogmatic eyes. But can Lakhani's supporters not see that even if they are successful in keeping him in power, all they will have is a completely ineffectualized representative? In other words, a leader who has had his integrity scrutinized so closely can simply no longer command the full respect of higher constituency. It's almost academic to say that a leader who commands no respect is nothing more than a self-serving parasite of the people.

Lakhani must resign. I make that statement not as a spokesperson for

any group or organization, but as a member of the community with a profound concern over the quality of leadership. His actions violate the trust placed in him, in every sense of the term.

Sincerely,
Larry Till

THE RIGHT THING?

- 1) Would there have been quite so much fuss had Mr. Lakhani said quote unquote the right thing?
- 2) A philosopher once said, "Hypocrisy is the price that vice pays to virtue."
- 3) Please read Machiavelli.

Tony Woolfson

Excalibur regrets that it was not able to run all letters received, but severe financial trouble is limiting the size of the newspaper.

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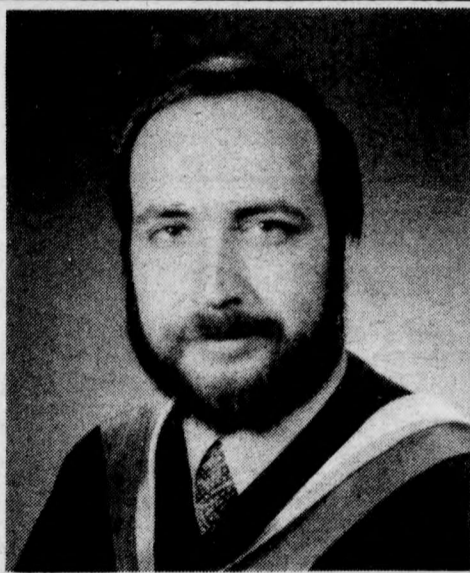
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