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By MARTIN ZARNETT

Jews For Jesus should not be allowed on campus

There is a new anti-Jewish group on campus. Their tactics are provocation of Jews and denial of Judaism. This group is called Jews for Jesus and they are applying for recognition on campus.

This development should be of concern to every person of goodwill who believes in toleration and multiculturalism in our country and our University. York should not be a harbor for the types of activities in which Jews for Jesus will engage.

I am not talking about a student group; their organizers are not students. These people are professional proselytizers—with a difference. While most evangelical organizations target the general population, Jews for Jesus targets Jews. People who characterize this issue as a free-

dom of speech issue must also agree that any active form of religious and race hatred is also an acceptable form of speech for the tables and halls of Central Square.

The methods used by the Jews for Jesus organization in Philadelphia have been reported by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia. They state,

'Jews for Jesus' is very much a 'hit-and-run' organization. Here and elsewhere the 'Jews for Jesus' method is to inundate a city with missionary workers, stand on street corners, hand out thousands of throwaway broadsides, raise as much money as possible . . . and then disappear. While such

tactics may not lead to mass conversions, they do serve to unsettle the Jewish community (as they are meant to) and to create serious strains in local Jewish-Christian relations.

There are no indications or assurances that the same types of methods will not be used at York. In fact, from all indications Jews for Jesus have begun these types of activities already.

The Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto-sponsored by the Diocese of Toronto, the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews—in a letter to the Provost, Thomas A. Meininger, state,

We support dialogue and deplore the proselytizing approach of a group who while implying they themselves are (or were) Jewish (sic) single out one particular religious community (i.e. the Jews) in order to convert them to Christianity. We find this offensive and both the Christian and Jewish Dialogue of Toronto call on York University not to grant them recognized status.

A document entitled "Wisdom of Chairman Moische" has been compiled and edited from Jews for Jesus Council minutes. The following is a

sample of Jews for Jesus techniques to be used by members:

The Chabadniks want separation from the Gentiles. Public disapproval means nothing to them. This is the wrong group to provoke. Do not provoke Chabad, provoke the establishment (Jewish community).

Psych them out; bristle with hostility, particularly in between (members of the Jewish community). The idea is to provoke them into over-reaction. But don't let yourself really feel hostile, just act it or fake it.

Jews for Jesus also publish pamphlets which are entitled: 1) Where was God when the 6 million died? 2) On the first day of Christmas my Rabbi gave to me . . . 3) Christmas is a Jewish Holiday 4) Jesus made me Kosher. These pamphlets all in one way or another deny or denigrate Jews and Judaism.

At the present time Jews for Jesus is an outside group—meaning they do not have University recognition. As such they must obtain permission to come on campus. Reports are that they have already begun their activities on campus without permission. If this is true then they have violated University regulations prior to recognition. The question that must be asked is what regulations then will this group contravene if given the

legitimacy of University recognition.

I am not anti-religious. I am in favor of free speech. I am for an open and vital university. I am against racism. I am against anti-Semitism. I am against deception. That is why I am against Jews for Jesus being recognized and allowed on campus.

I am not singling out this particular group. I am also against a group such as the Moonies from being a recognized group on campus. And, if a group who called themselves Christians for Islam, for example, was established which specifically denied the legitimacy and the existence of Christianity and was aimed at provoking Christians, I would be writing this same article. Understand, this is not a Jewish issue alone. This group and ones like it affect all the students, staff and faculty. There is no place for three types of organizations at York University.

All members of the York community with a conscience should immediately contact the Provost and/or the President to state his or her objections to this group being recognized. There is no doubt that rather than add to the harmonious co-existence of religious groups at York, recognition of Jews for Jesus would be a divisive element in a school where there are so many ethnic, religious and cultural groups presently co-existing and flourishing.

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I do not support the "goonish" behavior—and make no mistake, it was goonish and absolutely intolerable behavior—of Mr. Himbara and his colleagues at the visit of South African Ambassador Babb to the University of Toronto. I find it curious that those whose ability to dissent and protest in our liberal democratic society is guaranteed by the respect of Canadians for freedom of speech are the first to deny the same right to others. What harm would it have done to confront Mr. Babb in a rational manner inside the auditorium by asking him to defend his indefensible position? I expect that the hearts and minds of those currently sympathetic but as yet uncommitted to the anti-Apartheid cause would have best been influenced in this manner. While the motivation of Mr. Himbara and his colleagues is understandable, their tactics show a lack of appreciation for how best to convert the convertible.

Lastly, I must register for the record my disgust for Mr. Himbara's statement to the effect that when the struggle over Apartheid reaches its inevitable conclusion the victors would ". . . remember who our friends are." Veiled threats of this nature—and this mean-spirited statement can be viewed in no other way—are reprehensible and cannot be condoned in a university environment where individuals must be guaranteed the right to voice a dissenting opinion without fear of retribution. I suggest, Mr. Himbara, that you take to heart the words of Thomas More and realize whose liberties your actions are really threatening. To wit: "What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil? And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned round on you—where would you hide?"

—Cal Bricker

Calumet fills vital need

Editor:

I am writing this letter regarding the last issue of your newspaper and more specifically the Zarnett Zone column. As a member of the government of Calumet College I would like to express my concern over the comments made regarding the CCGM's effectiveness as a student government.

It was noted that most colleges on York campus seem to center on the needs of their resident students and

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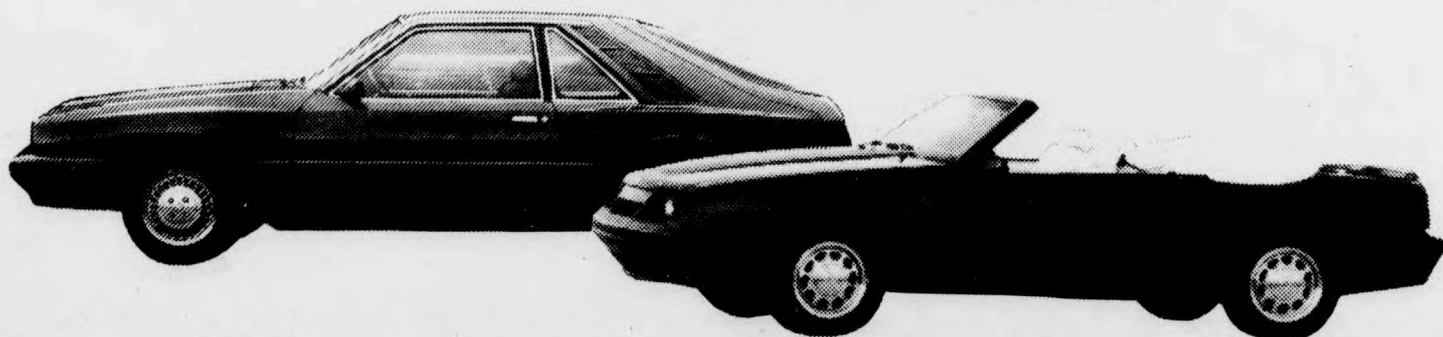
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