

More letters

'Desperado' tells of concern for university education

James Daly, in his article of January 27, in the Toronto Star, "Ontario government must face up to the university crisis," expressed the frustration that a few concerned people share about the future of higher education and social responsibility.

There has usually been a widely held belief that higher education functions as a stepping stone in the development of civilization, and in the continuance and deepening of a diverse and productive society. If the government does not come through with monetary aid to the universities, then society as we have known it will lose an essential antibody against decay.

Since the 1960's, education has come to mean the world of experience instead of the university-world. A young person seeking insight into our society will not find anything revealing within the university. It provides a safe and secure future only for those people with the desire to be assimilated into the society. Universities across the country are gradually losing their capability to attract and keep intelligent people in school.

The government would like us

conveniently to believe that the universities have stuck their feet in their mouths through lack of foresight, and so likewise, there is little money for higher education. How can anyone who still believes in the role of the universities let the government get away with what it is doing?

There still exists the myth that only through a university education can success be gained. The government also knows that the calibre of students is disappointingly low and therefore quite naturally fears for the quality of future professionals and politicians. Maybe the role of the universities is changing and what the government fears is a threat to the maintenance of a so-called secure society.

The government's reactionary solution towards education does not upset very many people. The anti-intellectual trend that is currently shared by the taxpayers has become the issue and groundwork to keep the people and men of power happy. Keep them anesthetized! The result will hopefully displace the University as that atmosphere which exposes people to essential ideas that add perspective to the problems of

society: such ideas as individual and social expression, freedom and imagination.

Don't we still believe that the preservation of our society can only succeed with both ideals and realities? Perhaps, our gradeschools and nursery schools will share the responsibility that was once the university's.

Where are all the strong-willed people who refuse to stagnate? For the present, we exist as mythical anomalies in everyday life. I'm afraid that we have become the desperados; we are full of energy ready to defend the rights of a future time.

Adrian Wolfberg

Arab interview distorted, false

In reading the "interview" with Khaled Mouammar (Excalibur, Jan. 30, 1975) I was struck by the record established there by relating so many distortions and complete falsehoods in such a short space.

To prevent being called a name-caller without giving substantiation

to my charges, I will refer to two points made by the interviewee, not conceding the rest of the tales.

Mouammar claimed that it was not true to allege, as Israel has, that "the Palestinians left their homes in 1948 to make way for an onslaught of Arabs bent on genocide" (of the Jews), and he further said that it was not true that the Palestinians were urged to leave by their own leaders, so as not to interfere with the Arab war effort against Israel.

On October 12, 1963 the newspaper Akhabar el-Yom, published in Cairo, recalled: "15 May 1948 arrived... on that very day Mufti of Jerusalem (the leader of the Palestinian-Arab community) appealed to the Arabs of Palestine to leave the country, because the Arab armies were about to enter

and fight in their stead".

Another untrustworthy allegation made by Mouammar pertained to the figures he mentioned regarding the economic situation in Israel. Referring to the recent devaluation of the Israeli pound he asserts that "the currency was divided (obviously devalued) by 40 per cent in one day. This and other developments resulted in an immediate 70 per cent increase in the cost of living".

The real figure regarding the rise in the cost of living due to the devaluation and the reduction in Government subsidies for certain commodities was 16 to 17 per cent, as can be verified in the newspapers reporting on these developments during the month of November 1974.

Hedy Goldmacher

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C.G. Dunn
Director of Safety and Security Services