

APOLOGY DOUBTED

Note is taken of your apology (Nov. 11) and your present claim that it was neither your intention to misrepresent the culture and politics of Third World Students nor to imply that "all students who acted improperly (at Bipin Lakhani disciplinary meeting) were from the Third World". It is surprising to hear this when it appeared that the sentences as constructed and arranged express quite the opposite. Nevertheless, inconsistent treatment of a recent event has

forced me to wonder whether something other than late hours informed your unfortunate juxtaposition of sentences.

I am referring to an incident which took place last Tuesday and was reported in Excalibur (Nov. 11) under the caption "Bearpit Confrontation". What would otherwise have been the peaceful screening of a film turned into a display of intolerance, lack of respect for the rights of others and plain bad manners on the part of some students. Witness the attempts at obstruction and provocation - students standing in front of the projector and screen; loud

chanting; use of the erstwhile, impartial York radio station to drown out sound.

Alas, how did your paper report this event? I dare say that your reporter was more concerned with vindicating the action of these students than with the disorderly and 'undemocratic' behaviour displayed by them.

Certainly, this latest event deserved editorial comment. Certainly, in keeping with your treatment of the 'undemocratic' behaviour which erupted at the Bipin Lakhani disciplinary meeting, you could have used your column to castigate these students.

Whilst I believe your apology is genuine, the fact that you have chosen to ignore the disruptive tactics employed at the bearpit, confuses me. What is the basis for this inconsistent treatment? Is it that your paper represents the interests of these students? Is it that in supporting their viewpoints you are blind to their wrongdoings? Were Third World students unwittingly being used as a scapegoat to support your position on the Bipin Lakhani issue?

Douglas Mendes
A Caribbean Student

JDL: JUST BULLY BOYS

It has become apparent that it is time for the majority of Jews on campus, through their representative, the Jewish Student Federation, to show that they are disgusted with the actions of the so-called "Jewish Defense League". This small group of bully boys who decided for the rest of us, Jew and Gentile alike, what is and what is not anti-Jewish, through this action of censorship, is reminiscent of the brown shirts and the JDL should know better. As for the JSF, they should issue an immediate statement condemning the whole sorry business.

Berel Wetstein

REAL ISSUES

If the question of Zionism were as cut and dry as certain people (both pro and con) have stated, then a solution to its indigenous problems would be simple. But the manifest situation is quite different than the theorists believe.

For one thing, the whole issue has been clouded (mainly by the anti-zionist camp). A principle source of this confusion is the lack of distinction that is drawn between anti-zionism and anti-semitism. As any ultra-orthodox Jew will attest, these two concepts are not the same. Zionism is a national and political philosophy, while (anti) semitism deals with the historical and religious study of people from the area of the world commonly referred to as the Middle East. Coloquially, this has come to mean Jews. Equating these two ideologies is what has led to much of the turmoil in the world (and even here at York) today.

Secondly, the Jewish Defense League, which has been increasingly active on campus this year, is in many respects, a highly detrimental force. They are widely perceived as the mouthpiece of the entire Jewish community. Again, such is not the case. The JDL presents no more than a single side of the issues, and an often-distorted one at that. They are no more the voice of the Jewish community than Ed Asner is an official spokesman for the El Salvadoreans.

With all of the trouble brewing this year, the potential for violence and harm to personal well-being exists to a far greater degree than before. Maybe a little clear-headed understanding of the real issues will stem this rising tide of blinkered hatred. If something isn't done - fast - somebody is going to land up getting hurt. After that, who knows what could happen?

Larry Till

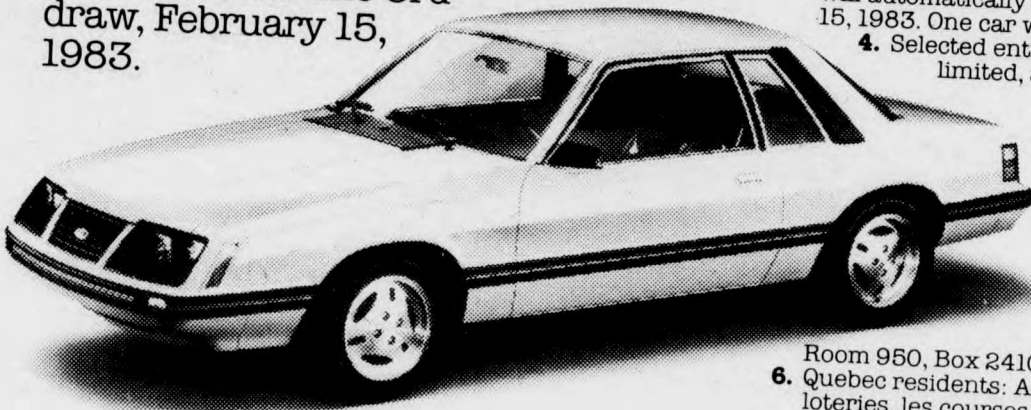
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3. Selections will be made from among all entries received by the independent contest judging organization on October 21 and December 15, 1982 and February 15, 1983. Entries not selected in the October 21 or December 15, 1982 draws will automatically be entered for the final draw, February 15, 1983. One car will be awarded in each draw.
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5. Sweepstakes is open only to students who are registered full or part-time at any accredited Canadian university, College or post-secondary institution. Complete contest rules available in the Grab-It envelope at selected campus bookstores or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to TransCanada Telephone System, 410 Laurier Ave. W., Room 950, Box 2410, Station "D" Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6H5.
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