

REVERB

Retrieved from the mind of. . .

If the opinions expressed by Vaclav Taborsky in Cinema Canada no. 54 are any indication of the viewpoint of film production teachers in this country, I'm afraid the future of film in this country will be in a sorry state indeed.

Mr. Taborsky's "Ten Suggestions to the Film Student" reeks of an overall right-wing, establishment catering policy of film production. Does he not realize that institutions of higher learning, especially universities, are not designed and definitely should not function as training grounds strictly for employment purposes. Universities and colleges are places where one acquires a broad spectrum of knowledge, gains the discipline to pursue "truth" more rigorously, participates in and reaps the benefits of a communal environment of fellow awareness seekers and perhaps, if one is in a fine arts program, learns the rudiments and possibly the expertise of a creative craft.

Unfortunately it has been my experience that Mr. Taborsky's generally conservative attitude is quite widespread throughout our Canadian education world. He and others like him in positions of power over our future cultural leaders seem to constantly discourage budding artists from being at all creative stressing instead that they must be good little, obedient slaves of an outdated, authoritarian system of production.

I would be the first to agree that in the "real world" commercial movie-making is a tough market to crack: but what needs to be pointed out to stu-

dents is that there are alternative modes of film work. Modes that are different from and radically opposed to the standard, mainstream mindless junk that passes for art and perpetuates a distorted ideology. Many filmmakers in this land testify to anti-establishment, anti-American models of cinematic practice. May I suggest to Vaclav Taborsky and others of similar predilection that they take a serious look at the work of Jean-Pierre Lefebvre, Denys Arcand, Michael Snow, etcetera and use them as examples of successful anti-mainstream work.

I would certainly rather see creative graduates of our film schools, struggling to survive, driving taxis, making interesting 8mm personal films in their spare time, than prostituting themselves and destroying Canadian culture by working for the CBC — cutting one minute out of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show."

I may be slightly idealistic in my opinions and yet so were Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut, Claude Chabrol et al. If we really desire a Canadian "New Wave," we do not need educators preaching Old Pollution!

Retrieved from the mind (already corrupted by institutions) of a York University film theory graduate,

Steve Collins
Hamilton, Ontario

Sensitive and perceptible

The following letter was addressed to Kystyna Hunt.

On behalf of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, and all those involved in the production of

"Exploding the Myth," may I thank you for your sensitive and perceptive review in Cinema Canada.

We feel you presented a significant awareness and understanding of our message, while delivering your comments in a concise and most readable style. It is our hope that others who view "Exploding the Myth" will be able to derive the depth of understanding you have exhibited. You have been extremely encouraging and be assured your comments will be seen by many of the parents, volunteers and professional workers in our field.

Henry J. Botchford
Director of Communications
The Ontario Association for
the Mentally Retarded



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