

May the good guys win A lesson from Hollywood

By Marko Peric

Okay, be honest with me for a minute. Does anybody out there wish that just once Wile E. Coyote would catch the Roadrunner? Anybody want to see Gargamel actually eat a Smurf? Does anybody agree with me that the Power Rangers need to be stomped on by one giant monsters?

Hollywood has somehow decided that the "good guys" will always win. No one is really sure why. Perhaps some Warner Bros. or MGM executives watched a hundred European films, got rather depressed, and then decreed that "All American movies must have happy endings."

This writer knows that not everything with emanates from Hollywood ends on a high note, but the good guys will win ninety-nine times out of one hundred. Consider the following scenario: A Boeing 747 hurtles toward a mountain, engines failing. The passengers scream in terror, the pilot fights with the controls, desperately trying to gain altitude. If this was an American movie, the plane would pull up at the last second, just skimming over the mountain and escaping certain death. In a European movie, no such luck. The Boeing hits the mountain and explodes in a huge ball of flame. No survivors.

In case you missed *The Last Action Hero*, one point this

movie brings up is that in real life, "bad guys" can, and often do. win. How very true this is. It's a dark day when one has to follow the advice of Bachman-Turner Overdrive "...the only way to get things done/is looking out for number one." The cliché says that nice guys finish last, but in popular entertainment this is vigorously denied. If only they were right.

North American society has become increasingly self-centered over the past few decades, to the point where noble concepts like integrity and 'family values' have almost become

bad words. As everyone scrambles up the ladder of success, no one cares who they have to step on in order to reach the top.

By no means is this a new phenomenon, but this writer believes that the problem is getting worse.

Assuming a fatalistic approach to this plague, a la European film makers, will not help solve it, nor will the head-in-the-sand approach taken by Hollywood. The way to solve the

obstacles our society is faced with is to confront them and deal with them within yourself. No one can change the world who is unwilling to change him or herself. Until people realize that their own selfish desires are the root of the disease, the bad guys will continue to conquer, and the only place where the good guys will win is at the movies.



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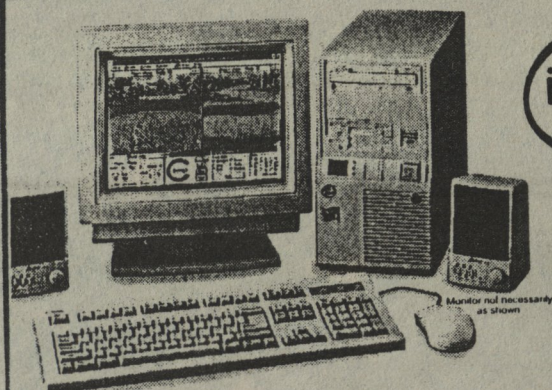
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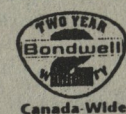
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Hello everyone!!

Just thought I would welcome everyone back to the wonderful university of Prince Edward Island, especially since I had this space which had to be filled up. Hope you all had a lovely spring break. I know just how excited everyone is to be back in classes. I know that Marko is so excited that he could almost run all through campus in a leopard-printed thong-- I get chills just thinking about it!-- G.