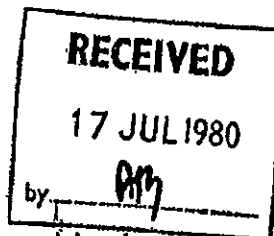


13th July, 1980.

The Chief Censor of Films,
Department of Internal Affairs,
Private Bag,
WELLINGTON



Dear Mr. Tunncliffe,

I phoned you several weeks ago, questioning your motivation in giving 'A Life of Brian' an R.16 rating as I felt that my 12 year old daughter would probably enjoy it, given the opportunity (she thoroughly enjoyed the Monty Python team's previous film). Now that my husband and I have seen the film in question (and in view of the criticism your actions in this connection have received from some sections of the public) we would like to commend both your refusal to ban it and the rating that you awarded it.

We are at a loss to understand the claims made by some groups that the character 'Brian' was intended to represent Jesus and that the whole film was, therefore, a 'send-up' of the life of Jesus. We both felt that the film's makers had trodden very carefully indeed in that particular area and had made it very clear, both in the stable scene and the scene concerning the sermon on the mount, that Brian was in no way intended to represent Jesus. The unthinking and irrational manner in which some people embrace a belief is, of course, sent-up in hilarious fashion throughout the film - but surely this is fair game?

Despite the fact that we still feel that our daughter would have enjoyed the film, the R.16 rating was obviously justified since the film did contain a nude scene (albeit extremely funny) and a certain amount of bad language.

In conclusion, I only wish that the NZBC would discharge their duty to the public in ~~the~~ thoughtful, objective and responsible a manner as your own department has displayed in its treatment of 'A Life of Brian' (I am, of course, referring to the current 'Death of a Princess' and 'McPhail and Gadsby' fiasco).

Yours sincerely,