

Founders upsets women's group

Dear Editor,

For the recent CN Tower United Way Rock Walk, Founders College chose to advertise with the following sentence:

"Fat, Ugly and Stupid is no way to go through life. Lose the fat, climb the stairs."

The person who formulated this ad chose to ignore the profound distress that such blatant negative stereotyping causes people whose bodies do not conform to strict societal prescriptions. Nor did he (for it was a man) consider how such advertising reinforces the pressure on women, particularly, to continuously starve themselves and enforce ever-more rigorous regimes of exercise on themselves in pursuit of the hollow-cheeked, emaciated frame which is currently viewed as the ideal female body form.

The men and women who endorse the message of this ad should be aware of its implications. Fatness in our

society is viewed as a type of moral ineptitude, a symbol of sloth and gluttony, a sign that a person has no will-power or self-respect. People who ascribe these qualities to fat people are actually projecting their own fantasies of who should be socially accepted and who should be excluded, their own fears around self-control and self-gratification. "Fat and Stupid" or "Fat and Ugly" joins such other stereotypes as "fat and lazy", "fat and sloppy", "big fat slob" as common epithets in our language. It is considered acceptable to deny fat people jobs, to publicly humiliate them, to make them the targets of our society's self-hate. In this context, this ad amounts to hate literature.

That women in particular are targeted for this discrimination cannot be denied. "The fat lady" is a caricature which invokes universal derision. And yet, the standard of "normal" body weight for women falls regularly. Until the late '70's, "oversize" meant size 16 and up. Currently, "oversize" is size 14, and some shops for large women are now stocking size 12, because regular stores no longer bother ordering these sizes. A woman cannot be thin enough, in our society. The social costs for women are horrendous -

skyrocketing levels of anorexia and bulimia, the normalization of dieting as a way of life, the billions of dollars that the weight loss industry makes annually from women's anxiety, and the profound drain on female health, creativity, and achievement that comes from chronic semi-starvation.

We condemn such cruel stereotyping. We are working to promote diversity among us, to learn to see the beauty in large and powerful women particularly, and to celebrate all our natural sizes.

The Women's Body Images Support Group

Founders apologizes

Dear Appalled Founders Student,

We are writing this in response to your letter in the Nov. 13 issue of *Excalibur*. On behalf of the Founders College Student Council (F.C.S.C.), we apologize if you have been so insulted by the posters that were placed around the college advertising for the CN Tower Rockwalk for charity.

However, we must add that the council member who organized this event did not intend to insult anyone through his posters. P. R. O'Grady simply meant to get peoples' attention by method of "shock" advertising. Obviously this was effective, although in a detrimental way.

Founders College Student Council has always had an open door policy with regard to complaints. We hope that any future conflicts concerning the council will be brought to us initially, following our formal complaint procedure as outlined in the F.C.S.C. Constitution.

Please feel free to attend and voice your opinions at any of our weekly council meetings, as everyone is welcome.

Founders College Student Council

Issue not presented clearly

Dear Editor,

I am glad to see coverage in *Excalibur* on programs developed through SHEACC. However, I am concerned that your recent article, on SHEACC's proposal for a sexual assault peer education program, did not represent the issue accurately. There are a number of points I would like to clarify.

First, the headline announcing a floundering plan is misleading. SHEACC has over many months consulted with individual students, a number of offices and groups at York, to develop an educational program that will take into consideration a range of needs and concerns. Feedback from each group or person has influenced the proposal. At this stage, we are currently discussing the proposal with the Council of Masters, with the same opportunity for comments and concerns to be considered.

Your article stated that the Council of Masters was being approached for funding and implied that this was a source of resistance. This is certainly not the case. In fact, the Council was not asked to bear the cost of basic funding. There are also no further talks planned with any group to discuss financial obstacles.

Also, I am concerned about the representation of the proposed peer educators as "officers" or people who will set a "tone of behaviour". SHEACC is hoping to train peer educators who will do intensive awareness raising around sexual as-

sault and related issues. Peer educators can play an important role in providing information and in changing attitudes. This can go a long way in creating a safe and equitable environment for women at York. However, their role will be proactive. They will not be expected to respond to specific incidents.

Letters

Media coverage of issues and initiatives related to violence against women is important. More is needed. I do hope, however, that future *Excalibur* articles on SHEACC initiatives will demonstrate effort taken to develop a more accurate and in-depth report.

Sharon Chimming
Advisor, SHEACC

Remembrance Day protest ill-timed

Dear Editor,

I would just like to make a few comments on the Heather Green article (Nov. 13, 1991), outlining Joma

continued on page 6

Reader disputes Shehid's facts

Dear Editor,

I'm sure you'll receive several letters regarding Gamal Abdel-Shehid's wildly distorted piece of anti-Israel propaganda, so I'll confine my remarks to just a few points, even though almost every paragraph of his article which discusses Israel contains lies, half-truths, and malicious myths.

First on my list of ridiculous statements is the description of Israel as "a creation of British and United States imperialism." Here are a few facts, which can be confirmed in any encyclopedia or history book:

In October of 1917 the British Government issued the Balfour Declaration, which said only that "His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people..." The Balfour Declaration said nothing about borders, forms of government, or the timing of such developments, and explicitly protected the rights of all other peoples in Mandatory Palestine. In the face of bloody Arab riots (some of which led to whole communities of Jews being killed, such as Jaffa in May 1921), political pressure from other Arab states, and internal Jew-hatred within the British Government, by 1922 the Balfour Declaration was already gutted of any meaning as the first White Paper was released, strictly limiting the immigration of Jews into British controlled lands.

Successive White Papers restricted Jewish entry into their homeland even more, and eventually led to ships full of homeless, penniless European Jews running into the British naval blockade of the Mediterranean coast of Palestine, either to be deported to the relatively humane British concentration camps on Cyprus or the hell of Nazi-dominated Europe. Thousands died in sinking ships, overcrowded detention camps, and Arab violence.

Between 1930-1947 almost all of the roughly 400,000 Jews who entered Palestine did so as members of an illegal (according to the British) national liberation movement called Zionism; the British, in deference to Arab wishes, did quite a bit to stop the return of the Jews but could not, as they were preoccupied with events in Europe.

On November 29th, 1947, the United Nations voted on a proposed partition plan of Mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab sections (The territory east of the Jordan River had been separated from Mandatory Palestine in early 1920's). One fact is

always forgotten by Israel - bashers such as Mr. Abdel-Shehid: the Jews accepted, and the Arabs did not. Britain actually voted against the partition plan, but most of the rest of the world, including the Soviet Union and almost all of the South American states, voted for it. The surrounding Arab states declared war on the new State of Israel immediately, invaded from all sides, and not one western government lifted a finger to help the vastly outnumbered and outgunned Israelis. The Arab states, with the exception of Egypt, remain in a state of war with Israel to this day.

Thus, to call Israel a "creation" of imperialism is to engage in the twisted rhetoric of wartime propaganda; far from being created by imperialism, the Jews resisted British rule for almost 25 years. Compounding the irony of Mr. Abdel-Shehid's baseless assertions is that the oppressive treatment of Jews in Arab and Moslem lands in the late 1940s and 1950s led to massive immigration to Israel from those countries, with the result that the population of Israel today contains a slight majority of Sephardic Jews, hardly the result of European imperialism.


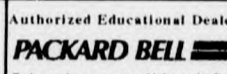


Well, that's enough history; the rest of Mr. Abdel-Shehid's article could be just as easily refuted, but I think you get the point. I actually agree with him about the nature of the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; isn't it ironic that the very same United Nations Mr. Abdel-Shehid condemns as a U.S. puppet has repeatedly censured Israel for expelling handfuls of known terrorists from the West Bank and Gaza, while nobody says a word when Kuwait expels over 10,000 Palestinians?

Regarding the Gulf War, well, one need only ask who invaded whom to see that it's just silly to assert that Israel is the "destabilizing" force in the region.

In conclusion, I must agree with Mr. Abdel-Shehid that peace is only a remote possibility in the Middle East; I even agree with him that "lies and myths" are a big reason why. Unfortunately, his own writing must be placed in this category; peace will only come about when the Jewish State is universally recognized as a legitimate nation among nations, and when those on both sides of the conflict quiet their words of hatred and work for reconciliation.

In Peace,
Neal Joseph Loevinger

We will publish, space permitting, any letters up to 400 words. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name and telephone number. Material deemed libelous or discriminatory by the staff of *Excalibur* will be rejected. Letters may be mailed or delivered to *Excalibur* • 426 Student Centre • York University • 4700 Keele Street • North York • Ontario • M3J 1P3

 MICRO YORK Serving York University Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students York Lanes, 2nd floor of Bookstore Store Hours Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.		Authorized Educational Dealer    Sale prices are valid until Dec 20/91 or while supplies last. Items must be picked up no later than Dec 20/91. Items sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices subject to change without notice. Micro York will be closed from December 21, 1991 until January 6, 1992	
Packard Bell Holiday Specials			
Force SX820 Elite • 80386SX CPU, 20MHz • 16KB cache memory • 2MB RAM, expandable to 16MB • 3.5" & 5.25" floppy drives • 125MB Hard Disk (20ms) • 2 serial, 1 parallel and mouse port • 16-bit Extended VGA (1024x768) • 14" Colour VGA Display (.28m dot) • MS-DOS 5.0 & Lotus Works Software	Special Price \$ 1,999	Force 386/33 Elite • 80386DX CPU, 33MHz • 4MB RAM, expand. to 32MB • 3.5" & 5.25" floppy drives • 130MB Hard Disk (20ms) • 2 serial, 1 parallel port • Serial mouse • 16-bit Extended VGA (1024x768) • 14" Colour VGA Display (.28m dot) • MS-DOS 5.0 & Lotus Works Software	Special Price \$ 2,499
Force 486SX Elite • 80486SX CPU, 20MHz • 4MB RAM, expandable to 32MB • 16-bit Extended VGA (1024x768) • 13" Colour VGA Display (.28m dot) • Socket for 128K external cache mem • 3.5" & 5.25" floppy drives • 130MB Hard Disk (20ms) • Serial, Parallel port + mouse • MS-DOS 5.0 & Windows V3.0 • Lotus 123 for Windows & LotusWrite	Special Price \$ 2,769	Force 486/33 Elite • 80486DX CPU, 33MHz • 4MB RAM, expandable to 32MB • 16-bit Extended VGA (1024x768) • 13" Colour VGA Display (.28m dot) • Socket for 128K external cache mem • 3.5" & 5.25" floppy drives • 200MB Hard Disk (20ms) • Serial, Parallel port + mouse • MS-DOS 5.0 & Windows V3.0 • Lotus 123 for Windows & LotusWrite	Special Price \$ 3,359
PB286NBX Notebook Computer • 80C286 CPU, 12MHz • 1MB RAM, expandable to 8MB • 3.5" floppy drives • 20MB Hard Disk (28ms) • Serial, parallel and VGA port • LCD VGA display (640x480) • 16 shades of gray, backlight • MS-DOS 4.01 Software • Weights 6.7lbs	Special Price \$ 1,649	PB386NBX Notebook Computer • 80C386 CPU, 16MHz • 2MB RAM, expandable to 8MB • 3.5" floppy drives • 40MB Hard Disk (28ms) • Serial, parallel and VGA port • LCD VGA display (640x480) • 32 shades of gray, backlight • MS-DOS 5.0 Software • Weights 6.7lbs	Special Price \$ 2,425