

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

CLICHED CATEGORIZATIONS

Upon reading Tony diGeorgio's letter in the November 11th edition I found myself considering a transfer to the U. of T. His attempt to typecast the students at either University was a slam to both.

Do the uppercrust deserve the "mommy and daddy sent me here" label. Should parents no longer give guidance? His attempt at categorizing was so cliché I turned white with fright.

York students being described as "street smart types of ethnic background" astonished me. Is this a university or a rerun of "Baretta". "Not so nice families" is an absurd statement. Do these families have bad table manners or what? My own family eats thanksgiving dinner off Rosenthal.

The students at York attend the school for various and sundry reasons. I am presently enjoying the inspired theatre program. My enrolment has nothing to do with that shoplifting incident in grade 7. It is in Mr. diGeorgio's statement on the "hip"ness of York students that he is so aptly described.

Dave Richards

healthy for any institution to undergo a process of renewal.

Harold Kaplan
Dean

SCM RESPONDS

The Student Christian Movement is concerned about the gross misunderstanding by some people regarding the issue of "Palestinian and Jewish" rights. It seems obvious that any group or individual that denies the recognition of the human rights of another human being is committing a serious crime against all humanity. Recognition of Palestinian human rights does not deny the rights of Jewish people, just as recognition of black peoples rights does not negate the rights of white people. We call for awareness of the rights of all people, regardless of religion, race or culture.

The film "To Live In Freedom" that was legally shown in the bearpit of Central Square deals with the rights of Jewish and Palestinian people. The organizers of this film showing include several York groups and individuals, including concerned Jews. The literature that was available at that event should be more relevantly labelled "love literature" because of its compassionate call for peace, justice and reconciliation for all persons involved in the Middle East conflict. It is ironic that the people who disrupted the showing of this film, which addresses the rights of Jews and Palestinians are labelling it anti-Jewish, when in fact it stresses the rights sought after by both Israeli Jews and Palestinians. Unfortunately, the people who physically tried to prevent the showing of the film did not take time to view the film for what it was. It would have been helpful if the reporter from Excalibur who covered this event had objectively described what the films message was, rather than the sensationalist coverage that we received.

It seems imperative that the JSF, which is the major umbrella organization for Jewish students on this campus issue a statement on what constitutes "anti-Jewish". It is important to note that the Jewish Defense League is not officially recognized by the JSF according to a statement by the JSF executive director at the York Inter-Faith Council meeting. The individual who was quoted in the front page of Excalibur on Nov. 11 took it upon himself to violently disobey the law

by obstructing the peaceful film presentation. It would have helped if Excalibur had approached other individuals who saw the film so as to get a more balanced story. Such limited reporting of this event has furthered the misunderstanding to this issue regarding human rights for all.

In response to the letter by the JDL on Nov. 18 I would like to point out that the endorsement that this group gives to the violent and disruptive behaviour of some "outraged Jews" is a violation which contravenes University regulations and provincial federal legislation. (See York Univ. Calendar, pg. J63) The University Security and Police had to intervene so that these uncivil individuals obey the law of the land. Furthermore, it is not ironic that the Student Christian Movement be concerned about this "human rights" issue. As Christians and concerned persons living in a global community, we have an historical and biblical mandate to involve ourselves in the struggles for justice and peace in this world.

The intention of this letter is to foster a greater awareness of our responsibilities to stand up for the rights of "all" people-let us not misconstrue that with being against a particular religion, race or culture. It is important for us to understand the need for dignity of our brothers and sisters everywhere-this is what is relevant!

Cathy Moffat
York SCM Secretary

REQUEST FOR MORE COVERAGE

On October 27th, Aldermania was held in the Bearpit in Central Square. Publicity for this event was abundant; the Political Science Department, Economics Department, Urban Studies and Social Studies Departments, all concerning urban politics, were notified. The Excalibur ran ads (for which we must thank you) and flyers were distributed for this event. The PSSA even confirmed with the Excalibur about coverage of this important event. Unfortunately, there was none from our only newspaper. This event was important in that municipal politics affects everyone in the University but the Excalibur couldn't (wouldn't) report on it. It only leaves one question in my mind: in the future, can the PSSA count on

the Excalibur for coverage?

Karen Eckstein
Political Science Students
Association

YORK SUPPORT

I was one of the candidates involved in the past municipal elections when I ran for trustee in Ward Five. Although I did not win the elections and came in with a very close second place finish, I was fortunate enough to win more polls than the other two candidates in three communities. One of those communities was York University.

I would personally like to offer my sincerest of thanks to those of you who supported me. I hope that if I again choose to run in any future municipal election within our ward, I will again be able to count on your support.

Mark Stelmacovich

FOOD VALUE

Since my arrival at York, I have been quite suspicious of food value at the Ross Building cafeteria which is operated by Elite Foods Corp. The average meal seemed greatly overpriced for its size and quality compared to the services catered by Beaver Food (which manages excellently valued cafeterias in many Ontario Universities).

This was a general impression, as I said, until Friday, October 22 when I purchased a 75 cent chocolate donut at the Ross!

Now, students are, by and large, quite under financed and their monetary difficulties are worsened severely by our economic recession. Surely, therefore, York U.'s administration should responsibly protect the student population from outrageous gouging, occasional or persistent, by campus vendors who market essential commodities like food.

I suggest that the University demand a fully itemized audit of Elite Food's entire operation at York when contract renewal is considered, if not sooner. It may well pay to shop around.

Arnold Fox
Lab Technician

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