

## letters

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They *must* be typed, double spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

### YASA to stay away from politics

Dear Editor:

I write this letter in response to Faisal Kutty's Jan 11/90 letter. Mr Kutty seems to have a very selective memory or perhaps he only "zeroed in" on the table which dealt with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, during Israel Week there were many different types of displays including a tourism presentation, the selling of T-shirts, information on Israeli Universities, Israeli food and Israeli cultural diversity.

As Mr. Kutty accurately points out, the JSF is a religious, cultu-

ral and political organization and does not claim to be anything else unlike the Y.A.S.A which, according to its constitution, is only a cultural organization. Perhaps Mr. Kutty should adhere to the old adage "there should be truth in advertising." If you claim to be only a cultural organization, then stay away from material that is most obviously political.

Ronda Drash  
Osgood Hall Law Student

### u r sic

Dear Editor:

Durin' (sic) yur (sic) artacle (sic) 'bout (sic) AEPi, yur (sic) attempt (sic) too (sic) balittle (sic) the infamation (sic) bye (sic) not dooing (sic) any editing (sic) is not 'preciated (sic)

Fraternally and very proud of it  
Brian Bossin

Alpha Epsilon Pi  
Editor's note: (sic)

### Extremism alive and well at York

Dear Editor:

As students who have had the privilege of seeing the Islamic quotes distributed by the York Arab Students Association, we are thoroughly stunned by last week's remarks by Mohamad El-Assi, as printed in *Excalibur*, January 11.

For the benefit of those who haven't yet had the pleasure, YASA's writings, quite justifiably defined as "hate literature," declare that, "The hour shall not occur till the Muslims shall fight the Jews and the Muslims shall kill them . . . the stones and trees will proclaim, 'O Muslim! O servant of Allah! There is a Jew behind me so come and kill him.'"

This quote, authenticated and

justified by Mr. El-Assi himself, as having been made by the prophet of Islam, is both ominous and foreboding. The existence of such a hostile passage comes as no surprise. In fact, this prophecy is in line with hundreds of years of Islamic intolerance and outright persecution of minorities within their midst.

Even Mohammed, the founder of Islam, could never forgive, nor understand that the Jews would not accept his faith. He dealt severely with the Jews of Mecca, where in 627, over 600 were butchered in cold blood. After the prophet's death in 632, all Jews and Christians were expelled from Arabia.

What is surprising is that a student association at this university would propagate such unmitigated enmity toward another people and another community of students. Moreover, after public attention was drawn to the offensive literature, a representative of the group would write in *Excalibur* that, "the situation should not be

interpreted as an attempt to bring Mid-East fanaticism onto the campus." It is clear that Iran-style extremism is already alive and well at York University.

In suggesting that, "the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is instead an Islamic-Jewish conflict," Mr. El-Assi inadvertently refutes years of Arab anti-Israel propaganda which aims at convincing the West that the Arab people always loved the Jews, rather that they are only against Zionists (those in support of a Jewish national home, i.e. Israel). Mr. El-Assi is most correct in claiming that the core of today's conflict in the Middle East is rooted in the deep age-old animosity, expressed by the Islamic world towards the Jewish people.

YASA has not cleared the air rather, the cloud over York is polluted as ever, contaminated with the same hate and radicalism that has plagued the Middle East for generations.

Ralph Zaionz  
Aryeh Snitman  
Jennifer Turak  
Candice Cooper  
Steven Granovsky  
Asher Levy  
Jewish Student Federation  
Jewish Students Network

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### Nayman sexist towards men

Dear editors,

Re: Ira Nayman's "Massacre Shows Men Use Women As Scapegoats," January 11, p. 3 of *Excalibur*.

Life doesn't always give us what we want. It's a sad comment on human nature that few women are mature enough to accept reality: that the bad things that happen to them are mostly their fault. Or worse; nobody's. Women today need scapegoats for their alienation and perceived failure.

If you think you've been reading sexism in this letter, you're right. The writers of this letter, being men, can't get away with proliferating this sort of thing about women. And rightly so. We don't want to. Unfortunately, *Excalibur* columnist Ira Nayman can get away with saying this sort of thing about men. You see, we have simply taken the first paragraph of Nayman's article and changed every instance of the word "men" to the word "women." We have not done this to escalate the "war between the sexes" which, as Nayman does point out, "neither side can win." We have written to point out that if "seeking scapegoats is an act of immaturity," Nayman's turning men into scapegoats gets us no closer to resolving the conflict between women and men. Such a statement begs the question: what will bring us closer to resolution?

Nayman says that "by denying women their humanity, men set up the psychological table of women's abuse." By the same token, denying men their individuality serves only to turn the tables. It is this constant turning of tables which impedes the communication and resultant understanding which is necessary for the elimination of sexism. In short, what the writers of this letter are saying is this: stop turning the tables — remove them. Nayman stresses the need for "strong

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