

LETTERS

cont'd from p.4

the trees and people who are looking for something to criticize.

I hope the editorial staff of *Excalibur* remain at their post for the rest of the year. Overall they have done a very good job at being faithful to their editorial policy (which is printed in every issue of the paper for all to see and evaluate) throughout the year. They aren't perfect, but nor are you, so why don't we all learn to recognize each other's fallibilities and attempt to encourage and challenge people on to "higher ground" in positive constructive ways, rather than through destructive criticism.

Sincerely yours,  
Tim Bloodow

Questions smoke-free policy

To the editor,

I read with great interest Rick Greater's letter *Smoking in the Hall Poses Hazards*, in the Mar. 6 issue of *Excalibur*.

I agree completely with Mr. Greater that the administration is only paying lip service to their new smoking policy. I'm sure Mr. Greater would also agree that threatening advertisements from Harry Arthurs, like the one we read in that same issue, are not the solution.

York's new smoke-free policy is

nothing more than a "paper tiger" initiative. That is, it looks great on paper but — let's face it — it's impossible to enforce.

If the administration were truly committed to this resolution they would provide proper ventilation on campus.

Once again, the onus falls on the students (both smokers and non-smokers) when the administration won't come up with the resources to back up their policies.

With respect,  
Nikki Gershbnain

Lamb "diatribe" misdirected, writer says

To the editor,

Re: "Former Editor Disappointed with new plans for Lex." (Mar. 6)

It seems that Brett Lamb has taken historical revisionism to new heights. In his diatribe regarding proposed changes to *The Lexicon*, Lamb fails to take into consideration eight very important years of *Lexicon's* existence prior to Michael Adler's editorship.

In 1980, *The Lexicon* was resurrected by Jeff Elie and Maureen Dorey. The content of the paper was primarily Bethune community news: editorials, general college and university news, opinion/commentary, reports from college council, the Master, Senior Tutor, Residence Tutor, along with sports, the arts, and some very good investigative journalism concerning Bethune College and York University.

*The Lexicon*, under the direction of Jeff Elie, Dave Elder and Patty Milton-Feasby, never became a propaganda tool of Bethune College council.

In fact, quite the opposite was true of *The Lexicon*: scathing attacks on college council incompetence, criticism of both do-nothing and over-indulgent masters alike, and commentary and opinion pieces which

sent shivers down the spine's of York administrators.

If anyone wishes to read a good student newspaper — admittedly lacking in some of the artistic nuances of the pre-computer era — then *The Lexicon* from 1980 to 1985 is surely an example of such.

Over the past few years *The Lexicon* has become overly "commercialized" and the Bethune Community content "de-emphasized." It is

the duty of the Bethune College council to ensure *The Lexicon* remains responsible to the Bethune Community, and I hope they take appropriate action as mandated in the Bethune Constitution, and the constitution of the Board of Publications.

Sincerely,  
Pat Legris,  
Former Chair, Bethune College, 83-84  
and Lexicon contributor, 81-86

Arms race needs to end

To the editor,

Whatever we may think about the war in the Gulf, we should all support Prime Minister Mulroney's proposal for a world summit to stop the International Arms Trade and/or Arms Race in the Middle East.

I am not sure of the details of his plan, but I believe it should include all regions of the world and all types of weapons, both conventional and ABC (Atomic, Bacteriological, and Chemical). For there are many other situations in the world which could easily lead to invasions and war (e.g. Pakistan versus India over Kashmir).

But we cannot expect the smaller nations to forgo their own weaponry

if the superpowers and their allies continue to arm to the teeth.

To make a ban on weapons acceptable to the smaller powers, we must have a substantial measure of disarmament by NATO and the Soviet Union. (It is a great pity that President Bush has refused to ratify the conventional arms treaty negotiated a few months ago with the Soviets.)

At the same time, we should strengthen the United Nations, including the establishment of a strong permanent UN force, answerable only to the UN instead of national governments.

Yours sincerely,  
J.M. McNamee

Double standard for York Security

To the editor,

It is with great surprise that I received a "violation" ticket, for failing to stop. I am presently refusing to pay the "set fine" of \$15 in protest of the regulation itself.

I am not disputing the charge itself, for I concede that I did come to a "rolling stop." What I am disputing, however, is the validity of the ticket.

This is because on countless occasions I have witnessed both York Security and Student Escort commit the same "violation." On one occasion, I was travelling in a Student Escort van when the driver snickered

to his assistant, "York stop signs are optional," just as we were cruising through Assiniboine's red-and-white octagon at 40 km/h.

I must say that this type of incident is quite common, and that the perpetual disregard for the University's "Regulations" by Student Security is a reality not confined to recent history. I suggest that the policy of the Parking Authority is blatantly double standard.

As a law-abiding citizen and an advocate of legal rationale, I acknowledge that the above paragraph could not be used as a solid defense against the charge itself. Nevertheless, you must agree that

the fundamental requisite of any valid and moral law is its acceptance and obedience by all parties to whom it applies. Violators do not qualify as an authority to enforce the regulation unto others.

York University's 600 acres of private property makes for a very-small and easily-administered "legal" zone. This double-standard can surely be prevented by the immediate and simple elimination of the attitude that York Security is above the very laws which they are trying to enforce.

Yours truly,  
Luke Menkes

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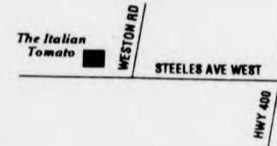


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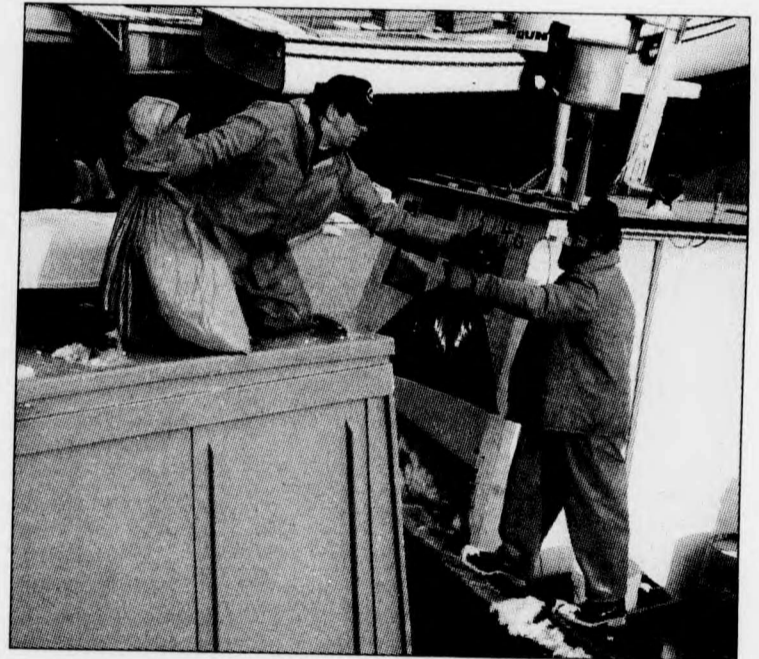
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"Somebody should do something about that."

**S**OMEbody DID. In Nova Scotia, the Maritime Fishermen's Union wanted to continue its campaign of encouraging fishermen to bag their trash and bring it back ashore. With help from the Shell Environmental Fund, the campaign is going strong.

In Midland, Ontario, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre wanted to bring the concept of composting to its 42,000 annual visitors. With help from Shell, the Centre now has a full-size composter and a portable mini model.

In West Vancouver, 4,500 obsolete underground

residential oil tanks were posing a threat to the environment. With funding from Shell, the local fire department hired students to locate the tanks and advise owners about safe disposal.

The \$1-million annual Shell Environmental Fund provides grants for action-oriented, innovative environmental projects in communities across Canada. If you have an idea for helping the environment, the Fund could help you do something about it. For more information, call us at the Shell Helps Centre 1-800-661-1600.



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