

cont'd from p. 10

come alternative to the regular structure of an art program.

Having this in mind, I fail to understand why Keobke is so hostile to the notion that even visual arts students need to have a little fun with their work once in a while and leave some of the pretensions of the art world behind. No disclaimers should be necessary in order to have bad and good works displayed alongside one another. Far from "encouraging trash," this kind of juxtapositioning allows everyone involved a chance to benefit from one another's achievements as well as mistakes. I would also assert that this was not just the case for the student artists but for the interested observer as well. I can't bring myself to believe, therefore, that the exhibit was as much an affront to the public's good taste as Keobke endeavours to make it out to be. In view of this, I feel compelled to say that his remark that the show revealed only the ignorance of the students was an extremely stupid thing to say and that his singling out of people to insult to be both very unfair and not too critically astute.

Finally, I do not appreciate either being goaded by the *Excalibur* writer's sarcasm into having to feel that it was at all necessary to write this letter. But it seems that Keobke somehow feels a need to further irritate the students in the Visual Arts area by claiming that Don Lawrence must be a "renegade" among the "mass of York artists who support my views wholeheartedly" because he was the only one who bothered to send in a letter. Well, Don Lawrence may be a renegade but I can assure Mr. Keobke that there are at least a few other "York artists" who certainly do not agree with his views nor respect his opinions.

—Allen Ash

Write On with a W not piloted solo

Editor:

Not meaning to sound like a sour grapes type griper, but, Deena Linsky is the CO-producer and CO-host of Write on With a "W". While she is a competent and creative individual, she is not steering this ship solo.

To clarify further, Write on with a "W" is not a poetry hour. We are involved in all aspects of writing, both at York and off-campus. We feature interviews and readings with writers, editors, publishers, and poets of all descriptions, including sound poets and performance poets. Since January we have interviewed

Clara Thomas, bp nichol, Alberto Manguel, and Stuart Ross, to name a few. On future shows we will feature a series on independent presses, such as *what*, *Sidd*, *Yak*, *Existere* and many more. Our show is Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in further information can contact Mary Jankulak or Deena Linsky at Radio York, 736-5293. John Gronan is the technical producer of Write on With a "W".

Mary Jankulak
Co-producer,
Co-host,

Write on With a "W"

Johnson's views quite destabilizing

Editor:

With regards to the article, "Peace Movement must help depolarize world alliances, retired General says," (*Excalibur*, March 5th) any person with a strong knowledge of the arms race would find General Johnson's comments quite destabilizing. It is here in this letter that I wish to argue some of his points.

Johnson said that the Geneva negotiations are often intentionally used by the superpowers to stall the arms control effort and secure deployment of a certain missile system, using the American INF stance during the early 1980s as an example to secure the deployment of Pershing 2's and Tomahawk missiles in Western Europe. What Johnson did not mention, (or, if he did, it should have been printed in the article to avoid a possible misunderstanding) was that the installation of 572 single warhead Pershing and Cruise missiles was to counter the 330 triple-warhead (that's 990 warheads) SS-20 missiles already installed during the late 1970s by the Soviets in the Western USSR, East Germany and Poland. To this date the installation of Pershing and Cruise in Western Europe is only half completed.

Johnson condemned the US for not joining the Soviet's unilateral test ban. It is interesting to note that during the five-year period prior to the Soviet announcement of their test ban (Aug. '80-Aug. '85) they conducted 127 nuclear tests to only 77 for the US. In order to emphasize this feat as part of his public relations campaign, Mikhail Gorbachev announced the moratorium 40 years to the day of the bombing of Hiroshima (Aug. 6th, 1945).

His statement that Canadian withdrawal from NATO and NORAD would "depolarize the world" by "coming out from under the alliance umbrella" is absurd. This, and our "peace" movement's objectives of

also refusing US ships and submarines and US bombers to use any waters and airspace, even in the event of an emergency is shocking to say the least. Making Canada "neutral" would be an incredible strategic gain for the Soviets and a great loss to the western democracies. North American exposure to a Soviet attack would be greatly increased. The full brunt of it would obviously come over Canadian territory and this in no way could prevent a strike on Canadian cities. The removal of North American defense systems would not aid the cause of peace, but only make war more likely.

—Michael Payne

York University Chapter
Canadian Coalition for Peace
through Strength

Appeasement is 'imbecilic' policy

Editor:

For fear of being accused of having tacitly approved of Susan Krajnc's unmitigated imbecility in the last *Excalibur* I feel I must respond. In her letter she suggested that peace with the Soviets can only be obtained through appeasement and that our security depends on their security. Anybody who believes that will believe anything. It's a shame that people can go through our education system and be so ignorant of history. By 1939 Hitler's Germany had built up a powerful military machine, annexed and occupied some surrounding territory and practiced warfare in Spain. We had the choice between Chamberlain's peace through appeasement and Churchill's peace through strength and deterrence. We chose peace through appeasement. The result: a Nazi-Soviet alliance sealed on August 23, 1939 (now called Black Ribbon Day) and World War 2.

How many people have to die before people like Susan Krajnc realize that appeasing totalitarian aggressors encourages them to take advantage of our weakness and goodwill? Appeasing the Soviets won't promote peace, it merely promotes an imbalance of power, which jeopardizes stability.

Following the signing of SALT I, America not only capped its missile production, but it actually unilaterally disarmed and handed Vietnam over to the communists. Was that enough appeasement to satisfy Susan Krajnc? Did the world become more peaceful? The result: over a million boat people risking their lives (half died according to UN statistics) to escape communist en-

slavement, genocide in Cambodia (my neighbour escaped from there, talk to him a few minutes and you won't think much about communism anymore), the Soviet Union underwent the most massive weapons buildup in history, a couple of new Marxist-Leninist states cropped up on the world map and the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, (just to mention a few events). 1.2 million Afghans have died since the invasion and Afghans who have escaped the tender mercy of the Soviet invaders are now the biggest refugee group in the world with several million in Pakistan. History shows that the more secure a totalitarian aggressor feels, the more our freedom and that of our allies is in jeopardy. War is much more likely when the Soviets are strong and we are weak, than if we maintained a balance of power.

If Susan Krajnc is going to continue to insist on peace through appeasement, I hope that she will insist that the Soviets appease us and start to share the same values that we do, eg: freedom of speech, assembly, press, religion, etc. . . . and the right to life and liberty. If the Kremlin shared our respect for pluralism and democracy the chances for a true and lasting peace would be much greater.

—Andrew Kavchak

Arabs slighted by Western media

Editor:

For the past few weeks York University was immersed in abundance of information concerning the greatest tragedy and genocide of the twentieth century—the Holocaust. Furthermore, avid *Excalibur* readers have also witnessed a number of letters to the editors concerning anti-Semitism. While all these letters were interesting and punaciously thought provoking, I believe they have failed to identify a fundamental problem.

Most western scholars, journalists, students and politicians understand anti-Semitism as solely being anti-Jewish. While being anti-Semitic does represent being anti-Jewish, there is another identity carried with it. That identity is anti-Arab.

The Arab people are also a Semitic people. They speak a language, Arabic, who's genesis or etymology is Semitic. This irrefutable fact is constantly subterfuged in western literature, academia and journalism and I am here to recapitulate what can be termed as the other anti-Semitism, that being anti-arabism.

The Arab people today live a curious life. In Israel where one million Palestinian Arabs live under occupa-

tion or Iron Fist Policy, have been intermittently tortured, harassed, killed and persecuted. Why? Because they are Palestinian whose crime is that they are proud of being Palestinian and they defend the rights of the Palestinian people for self determination.

Closer to home, the Arab population in North America have recently been victims of a rising anti-Arab racism and bigotry. In America today, not unlike the past, it's "de rigueur" to tar and knock the Arabs. Intermittent stereotypes, distortions, negative caricatures, diatribes and polemics occur. The field of literature, journalism and even the government have all profited from Arab bashing.

Private companies continuously use a "degenerated" and "destitue" Arab wearing the traditional garb, in actions of robbery, greed and violence in order to sell their products. For example, the Coleco toy company in both Canada and the United States have been selling a toy emanating from the Rambo series, called NOMAD. This toy is an Arab "terrorist" who has no home and is fighting on the side of evil. This product is being sold to children between the ages of six and 10. I guess they want to start early.

Canada, the country we love, is not without its share of anti-Arabism and anti-Semitism. The ubiquitous editorials of newspapers have a proclivity to itemize and characterize Arabs with terrorism, oil, greed and the "Islamic Bomb". They tend to equate all Arabs with Islam and ignoring the fact that there are Arab Christians, Jews and Muslims. In addition, they tend to lack perspicacity on Islam and its history, hence ending with the myopic perception of an "Arab Mind" and believing the Middle East as the origin of all evil.

While I can continue with the examples of anti-Arab racism and anti-Semitism, I believe I have stated my main points. As students we should come to grips with the realities of the Middle East and the meanings. Quoting from the *Excalibur* editorial of February 5, "The Holocaust is a lesson for the whole world, not just for Jews. A combination of hatred and indifference culminates into the death of millions. Knowledge of the past is more than essential, it is an obligation that cannot be shirked if future catastrophies are to be avoided."

Those words of wisdom should not be taken lightly. Those who preach this should practice this. Anti-Semitism wherever it occurs should be combatted whether it is anti-Jewish or anti-Arab.

Jerry Khouri

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