udith Hellman's appeal to the Excalibur to reopen the debate over the ROM's "Into the Heart of Africa" is the same as calling for a debate with the holocaust-deniers. It would be tantamount to helping the neo-Nazis rewrite history and exonerate the culprits. Hellman's is a futile attempt to rehabilitate the reputation of "Into the Heart" curator, Jeanne Cannizzo who, like others before her, inter-

pret colonial and slave history from the oppressor's point of view.

any other human being over five the Canadian soldiers and missionyears of age, who lives in this racially aries who had collected those arstratified and oppressive society, ticles.' must be fully aware that Canadians are very proud of their imperial past Cannizzo knowingly or unknowand murderous racist present! (Our ingly elicited) was the essence of cops are tops you know - especially when it comes to shooting unarmed African women and chil-

Hellman states that her impression of the exhibit was "of exquisite It is a distortion of reality to even beauty of the African objects and imply that Cannizzo wanted Cana- music on display, and on the other dians to be ashamed of their impe- hand, of outrage and shame at the rial past. Cannizzo, Hellman and racist and imperialist attitudes of

This kind of reaction (that our protest at the ROM in the summer of 1990. Assuming that Hellman was one of the most "informed" and "bigotry-free" viewers,

people earlier suggested that Roma-

nia could be saved if they restored its

royal house, under whose previous

rule Romania had been the most cor-

Loyalists hack up Catholics in the

name of the Queen, when you con-

sider how close Prince Philip was to

the worthless Greek royal family (a

bunch of Danish puppets whose

penultimate king married a Nazi and

whose last king, the playboy

Constantine, arbitrarily removed the

first post-war liberal premier and was

lution fired Dryden as poet laureate

because he was Catholic, and when

you consider that most of our rulers

have been dull non-entities who have

showed no interest in their (or anyone

else's) culture, you just have to agree

with Oscar Wilde who said that if this

is how she treats them, her Majesty

doesn't deserve to have any prisoners.

So when you consider how Ulster

rupt country in Europe.

all that the exhibit achieved was to mirror to make them see the ugly made and used those objects. And to add insult to racist injury, she only felt outrage at the soldiers and missionaries for collecting the objects, not at the white slave dealers. not at the colonialist, not at the present murderers in Toronto, Montreal, Los Angeles, not at the KKK, the police abuses and the applauding condoning public. This is an apology for savage profiteering from slavery, colonialism and today's racism and neo-slavery (reparation for which Africans now

The ROM exhibit was meant to reinforce the distortion, denigration and stereo-typing of the African person and rationalization of White peoples' unforgivable past and shameful present.

The debate on the ROM (a transparent effort to help Cannizzo get her job back) is an effort to reverse the gains already made in trying to rectify the Lies About Africa. The issue is dead. The exhibit was another racist piece, period.

The patronizing White liberal who think that Africans need their assistance in interpreting (or for that matterfighting) slavery, colonialism or racism should first cleanse themselves of all feelings of superiority (rescue-mission attitude) or SHUT UP about Africa. The least they can do is to recognize our ability to demystify the myths about ourselves in our own way.

Racists do not need a special school where they can be taught how not to be racists. The school is the society. If they cannot see the injustice going on, then holding a

evoke a token of appreciation of racism will not mean a thing. To objects and music of Africa. There them, bigotry is beautiful and noris no reference to the people who mal. To show them a picture of a White woman enslaving an African woman is to evoke in their hearts the feelings of a glorious past.

Last but not least, to reopen the debate now would be to aggravate the precarious situation the ROM Eleven are in. It is a cruel attempt to create doubts as to the nature of the

diatribes • manuestoes • rants • discoveries speeches ideas • dialogues • polemics • dissertations • epistles • monologues • proclamations • accusations • declamations • declarations defences • defenestrations •

exhibit and portray the protestors as violent, lawless and hyperactive individuals. The case would then be depoliticized and white supremacy would reign as usual. Such statements by Hellman that some of her students had protested without seeing the exhibits are calculated to achieve that end (just at the stereotypes would have it).

Omond Obanda is a York student and member of The Coalition for the Truth about Africa.

It's time Canadians dumped the

by Paul Notley

One of the more depressing things about this country's intellectual history is that since confederation there has been practically no republican or atheist currents. I am not an atheist but clearly the chauvinist and philistine elements in our churches deserve all the slander they can get.

I am a republican though, and was particularly struck by the absence of republicanism in this country while reading the horribly fawning press coverage of the visit of Charles Windsor, the Prince of Wales. How grateful we were that his singularly uninteresting wife should interrupt her shopping for a few days to say a few platitudes at our hospitals.

Why do we have a monarchy? Obviously many people support it merely because it's always been there, like death. But the classic argument for it is that without it we would have the same person as head of state and head of government and that the monarchy protects us from a Nixonlike demagoguery.

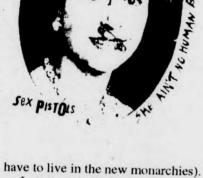
Of course there is the obvious objection that Germany, Greece and Israel have separated the two functions without the need for monarchist sycophancy. There is the unnerving objection that what sort of democracy are we if we have to depend on an aging, mediocre woman 4000 kilometres away with no special interest in our country?

But still some ninnies have thought that restoration would be just the answer to Eastern Europe's problems (usually these are ninnies who don't

Last month Time had a column proposing the Romanovs be restored to Russia. Right, just the thing to put Poland and the Baltic states at ease. The columnist also stated that Churchill thought that if the Weimar Republic was a constitutional monar-

Well for once Churchill was a

In the same vein of stupidity, some



indirectly responsible for the coup of 1967) — when you consider that the Restoration nearly had Milton executed, and that the Glorious Revo-

chy we could have avoided Hitler.

twit, since a statement like that is not much of an improvement on saying rattlesnakes would be harmless if we were immune to poison. The essential reason why Weimar collapsed was that various elites, such as business, the army, the (Protestant) church, the aristocracy and especially the universities, so despised the new republic that the turned to the first demagogue who could get rid of it.

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WORKS



omen's caucus will be having a brainstorming session this Thursday November 21 at 4:00 to come up with ideas for the upcoming International Women's Day feature • we need volunteers • writers • artists • photographers • if you're interested in contributing, please join our mind meld

excalibur

the Women's Caucus meets every Thurs at 4:00pm