

LETTERS

"acceptable racism" is that it tends to be contagious. It poisons future generations and is impossible to contain. Bigotry is also not limited to whites alone. Lately I have witnessed a rather peculiar phenomenon — more often than not, previously oppressed minorities use a convenient form of amnesia when it comes to other minorities. Being the member of an oppressed minority does not give you the right to oppress others.

Racism will probably always exist: Society evolves too slowly to show any encouraging signs to the contrary. The louder the voices of opposition, before and after the fact do more they will protect us.

Don't accept racism! Not in any form, against any group. If it offends a people, then it is up to those people to object. To demonstrate, voice their anger — to make it clear that we will not accept such offenses.

A. Fang

Inter-Arab solution

To the editor,

Re: Dec. 5 issue of *Excalibur*

Alan Grad questions the credibility of Arab leaders where a solution to the inter-Arab conflicts is concerned. He points out Iraq's invasion, Syria's involvement in Lebanon and the expulsion of Yemenese from Saudi Arabia. However, he fails to mention that Lebanon has been the battle field of many wars, such as the Israeli-Arab conflict, the presence of Syrian troops was the result of an invitation by some factions to protect them, while the occupation of south Lebanon by Israel is illegal.

As for the expulsion of Yemenese; well, Bush himself said that any one who supports Saddam will be treated as an aggressor as well. That's one effect of American intervention!

Asher Levy said that "failed diplomatic attempts to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait make it increasingly obvious that reason will not work with Saddam." Well we did not give Arab diplomacy a chance. The U.S. and U.N.'s diplomacy was a call for unnecessary, destructive and murderous war!

Menahem Neuer as well as Asher Levy ask us to thank Israel for its intervention in Iraq ten years ago, when it bombed a nuclear power plant! Israel itself has a large nuclear capability which threatens neighboring Arab states, and leaves Israel as the sole power in the region.

Considering Israel's aggressive actions in the region for decades, we have much more than Iraq to fear. So the world was more than right in its condemnation at the time.

For all the accusations by Menahem against Yasser Arafat, I'll respond with a phrase Arafat said in an interview as Palestinian embassies were being opened all over the world except in Canada, U.S.A. and Israel (who would not recognize 'Palestine'). He said: "We've tried war, let's try peace; let's give peace a chance". But Israel did not agree to a dialogue with the Palestinians.

Menahem, I don't care what accusations you invent against Yasser Arafat; but I don't feel that you can deny a population their right to self determination and independence because you disagree with their leader who, by not "praising" Bush, is disagreeing with the handling of the whole Gulf issue and is calling for an Arab resolution.

As Asher said, Hitler and Hussein cannot be compared; and thus Menahem cannot imply that Saddam's threats are against Jews, since they are only against the state of Israel.

The Jewish feeling of insecurity in their homeland is a result of Israel's policies towards Arab nations. The day Israel and U.S.A. agree to an

international peace conference with Arabs is the day Palestine is liberated and Israel is secured.

I think that the U.S. and the U.N.'s double standards in the treatment of Palestine's occupation by Israel as opposed to the treatment of Kuwait's occupation by Iraq, are back-firing on them. If their policies were consistent all the time, Saddam would not have stood a chance with anyone.

Basil El-Abdallah

Sanctions need time

To the editor,

We should not accept the annexation of Kuwait, but we must have the patience to let economic sanctions work as they probably will in time. This could be a great opportunity to set an example to the world of solving disputes peacefully, but without appeasement.

The sanctions may take a long time to work, but there is no guarantee that war will solve our problems any faster. Indeed most wars in this century

have taken many years and countless lives to resolve.

Yours sincerely,
J.M. McNamee

Erroneous impressions

To the editor,

This is in response to Mel Ransom's defense of the York University Licensing Program (Lexicon, Letters to the Editor, Nov. 21, 1990). I wish to correct some erroneous impressions which Mr. Ransom (no pun intended) has created.

1. "Students do not pay any royalties for the use of York names on products."

That is correct, the suppliers are forced to. But when the total for my house's shirts was bumped up by 6 1/2 per cent last year it **really** felt like students were paying for it.

2. "Many companies use the York name to enhance the value of their products and profit from the sale of these products."

Good Mel, two for two. But what about the residence groups, clubs

and sports teams who put their money together to buy **themselves** jackets, shirts etc.. No money is made here. Why tax them?

3. "We think the University should share in some of this profit because York's names are being used: so we are charging manufacturers a very modest royalty fee."

First, using York's name on a garment should please the institution. It amounts to free advertising. Second, you are skimming "profits" from groups who are set up to be non-profit (student governments, clubs etc.).

4. "Manufacturing companies may try to pass the cost of this on to the consumers if they think the customer will pay it."

Thinking that manufacturers will "eat" this cost is downright stupid. Passing it on to the student is the obvious solution. What choice does the student/customer have but to pay it?

5. "As the University starts to share in and benefit from the profits of outside companies, these funds should be used for the direct benefit of York students for such things as student bursaries, scholarships, athletics etc. I am on record as saying York students should get the direct

benefit from the revenues of the Program."

We know what an administrator's words are worth, don't we? Might I suggest York students would gain **maximum** benefit by disbanding the Licensing Program. Having students collectively pay a huge amount of money, out of which comes Mr. Ransom's and his staff's salary as well as the expense of keeping a roomful of t-shirts, sweat pants and jackets, and then giving us back the "change" does not seem beneficial. Taxing students to pay for their own bursaries does not seem real fair either.

My experience with the tax has led me to use cheap, "fly-by-night" type operations (which, logistically, the University can't police) who do not insist on the royalty. The University has put the thumbscrews to the bigger suppliers to force them to comply and to report those who don't. Doesn't York administration have something better to do than this?

P.S. Don't pay your parking tickets either, you can graduate without paying them.

Bill Lloyd
ex Don, Bethune Res.
ex VP, Bethune College Council

Faculty of Education Concurrent Teacher Education Programme Information Sessions

Wednesday, January 16
4:00 pm Curtis Lecture Hall I

Thursday, January 17
12:30 pm & 4:30 pm
Salon Garigue,
Glendon College

Monday, January 24
4:00 pm Curtis Lecture Hall I

The York University Faculty of Education offers a **CONCURRENT** teacher education programme in which candidates can pursue their academic and professional studies simultaneously.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Faculty of Education's **CONCURRENT** programme, its admission requirements and process a general information, you are encouraged to attend one of the above sessions.