

Reader recalls...

"The consequences of appeasement"

Tomorrow is Remembrance Day. At the risk of sounding trite, it is a day set aside to reflect upon the horror and loss of life that is the legacy of war.

Being human, we justify this misery and suffering by saying it preserved our way of life, our values, our democracies. However, today we see our democracies slowly compromising these values away.

For this very reason, I cannot help but think back to Remembrance Day 1975, when the United Nations passed a resolution equating Zionism with racism. Hearing that such an "obscene and despicable" idea (the adjectives are Daniel P. Moynihan's - mine are not printable), could have been adopted by the world community both saddened and angered me.

The UN a mere thirty years after the Nazi era - an era that saw racism and especially anti-Semitism refined to a science - had itself become a world centre of anti-Semitism. Hitler would have felt quite at home

in a forum where a gun-toting Arafat and a murderous Idi Amin are welcomed with applause. To paraphrase Churchill, the moral decay of the UN is complete and over, and the moral decay of the world is about to begin (if it has not already started).

Since that Remembrance Day of 1975, we have seen the western world repeatedly back down from basic moral and fundamental issues, upon which our civilization is based, and for which men (brave or otherwise) died for, or so we tell ourselves every November 11.

Like the three proverbial monkeys, the world community collectively chooses not to see, speak out against and hear the lies and brutality of the various, fashionable, leftist-liberation fronts, which are supported both financially and ideologically by the Arab-Third World bloc.

This group of nations has repeatedly shown that they do not know how to use their newly

acquired wealth and subsequent power. They are quick to condemn Israel and equate Zionism with racism, but among this group you shall find the most discriminatory and repressive of regimes.

Their condemnation and propaganda war against Israel, magnifying her every fault and discounting her every virtue, has been so successful, that the media have conveniently chosen to forget Munich and Ma-alot and the host of murders in between and after. Instead they - the media - have embraced the rhetoric of the PLO calling for a "Palestinian homeland".

However, the facts speak for themselves. Fact - there is not one Arab democracy in the Middle East. Fact - the Arab countries have no free press, few civil rights and a labour movement under tight government control.

So tomorrow remember our dead and rightly so. But we should also remember that this continued compromising with the so-called "national liberation movements" and their Arab - Third World supporters is very similar to that policy of appeasement of forty years ago, the consequences of which we are reflecting upon at this time.

Ken Gaughan

Science student says rats not representative



I am writing with regard to the infantile centre-spread of the *Excalibur* issue of October 27, 1977. First of all, the title implies that it was a presentation "from the science faculty", as if that was all we had to offer. The layman could infer then that biologists are people who

play with rats and pretty flowers, while physicists try to burn as many pieces of paper as they can in one day with a laser.

Such an article resembles a kindergarten child's impressions and recollections of a tour through York's research facilities.

Only a sibling would recall the price ("expensive") of an electron microscope, while ignoring totally its potential as a research tool in cell biology. The author is obviously amused by such simple acts as the burning of a piece of paper. He neglected to point out the utility of the laser as a component in the measurement of air and water pollution.

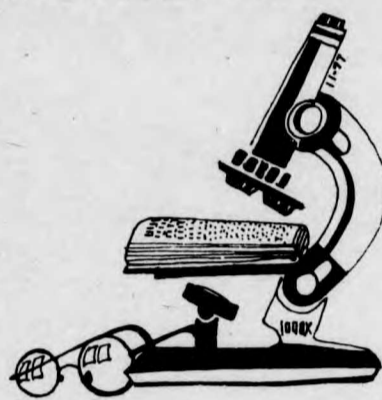
He obviously does not know what a mass spectrometer is, or how it works, for he would not have stated that it was "a device which measures the masses of atoms". It is, in fact, an instrument for measuring the mass to charge ratio of ions. (He probably thinks that ions are entities that Red Kelly used to spray over the Toronto Maple Leafs before a game.)

Such an article was an unwarranted cheap shot at the Faculty of Science. Your reporter was pre-occupied with trivia and neglected to point out that our faculty ranks with the highest in Canada, no mean feat for a faculty that has been in existence for such a short time.

We at York are very proud of such a reputation, a reputation that could well do without such slander. Not once did the author illustrate the great strides being taken in the areas of physics, chemistry, and biology here at York. Not once did he mention the long, lonely hours that research personnel spend in their labs garnering their data. But that did not seem to be his concern. Frivolity, however, was.

The public now wants to be able to decide what does or does not get done in the sciences, e.g. nuclear and genetic engineering. The arguments against such action is that they are not well informed. Such an article enhances the layman's ignorance. What we need is objective scientific reporting to eradicate such ignorance of the powerful tool that is science. Such an abysmal reporter can be only a negative factor in proper journalism.

T. Moreau,
Ph.D. Student,
Centre for Research
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Punkers for "Pet Rocks"

I would like to address my grievances to the contributing editor Machine Rock, of *Stage Life* regarding his letter to the editor on October 20, 1977. Apparently, the only contribution that you've made to society is to send people to an early grave.

By supporting Punk Rock you've implanted a cancerous growth in the minds of students. Paying allegiance to punk groups such as the Viletones, the Dead Boys and the Nazi Dog is fine as long as you don't bulldoze your way through syn-

thesized music and the music of the sixties. Synthesized groups such as Yes are gems compared to the pebbles such as the emetic Viletones.

Before you spit in Jagger's face again remember, Mr. Payne, Punk groups originated from the Who and the Rolling Stones and other infamous groups of the sixties. By downplaying the forefathers of Punk Rock, while simultaneously boosting the morale of Punk groups you have become the greatest "rock and roller" of "Pet Rocks".

J. Blackstien

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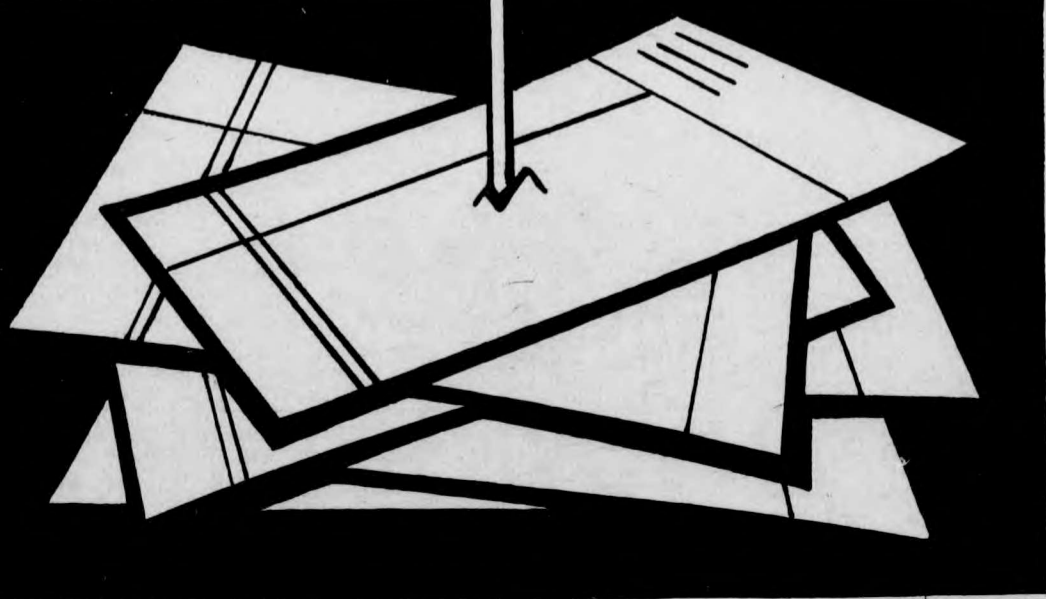
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