

## Klein — YASA conflict

Dear Editors:

I write this letter in response to a comment made by Lazar Klein, chair of the Israel Public Affairs Committee (IPAC) of the JSF. The comment made in reference to some articles handed out by a certain group on campus appeared in the November 30 issue of *Excalibur*. In this article dealing with the removal of the York Arab Student Association book table, Mr. Klein is quoted as saying that there was nothing cultural on the table. "Everything they had dealt with the Israel-Palestinian conflict."

This might be a legitimate criticism coming from someone other than the chair of the IPAC. The reason I say this is that during Israel Week, Mr. Klein's own group had a table, which was completely dealing with this conflict. The JSF also brought a speaker on campus to discuss how a Palestinian state would not be economically viable (as if Israel would survive without billions of dollars in aid), and his ideas were written up in *Excalibur*. These occurrences could be forgiven in light of the fact that they took place before Mr. Klein made this comment.

On the week of December 4, Mr. Klein's group had a table in Central Square, completely dealing with the Israel-Palestinian conflict. I always had the impression

that the JSF was a religious and cultural group as well as being political, but there was nothing cultural or religious on the table.

What was even more surprising is the fact that most of the literature distributed by the JSF came from the 'unbiased' Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The literature dealt with many questions that would make any sane person laugh, especially after watching news footage from Palestine. The question that seemed the best was, What is the area of Israel as compared to that of the Arab States?

At first glance this is an innocent question. What I would like to know is, what is the point in asking this question? Is it that since the Arabs have a lot of land it does not matter that Palestinians are homeless? If this is the point being put across then we could expel the blacks of South Africa to the other African states, the Turkomen people from China and the USSR into Turkey, etc. . . . If only we had all people thinking this 'logically,' then many conflicts in the world could be solved.

With this I would advise Mr. Klein to please adhere to the old saying "practice what you preach" and also to correct his own group before trying to correct other groups.

Faisal Kutty  
Muslim Student Federation

## Cultivate peace, not war

Dear Editor:

Among the items distributed last week (Nov. 27 - Dec 1) in Central Square by the newly formed York Arab Students Association was a map of North Africa and the Middle East, which included a point-form statement of the aims of the association. The map is boldly demonstrative of two crucial points which help bring the Middle East conflict back into perspective.

The first is the designation of the State of Israel as "Palestine", thus it is clear that the YASA has accepted the opinion of the vast majority of Arab states and the PLO, and has rejected the notion that Israel has a right to exist.

The second point that strikes me is the sheer enormity of the Arab world. With 21 countries (including Djibouti), spanning over five million square miles, and a population nearing 200 million, one has to question why much of the Arab world has spent over 40

years trying to destroy tiny Israel, barely discernable on YASA's map with her eight thousand square miles.

Seeing the immensity of the land mass controlled by the Arab countries, one can't help but be amazed that a home has not been found for the 600,000 Palestinian Arab refugees, displaced after the fledgling state of Israel was attacked in 1947-48. Indeed, these people could have been absorbed in much the same fashion as Israel, under far greater economic duress, took in half a million Jewish refugees, those expelled during the same period by Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, etc.

One can only hope that in the future, the YASA will bring forth a position that will contribute to an atmosphere of understanding between nations and peoples, rather than one of hostility and malevolence.

Aryeh Snitman

## YASA clears air

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you in regards to the November 30 article in *Excalibur*, titled "Table Removed for Hate Literature," since I would like the opportunity to clarify some misconceptions concerning the statements made by Mr. Lazar Klein.

First, it should be understood that the Arab culture is based on Islamic culture, and so it was perfectly acceptable for the York Arab Students Association (YASA) to display the controversial Islamic papers. Similarly, the so-called paragraph that was labelled as hate literature is actually an authentic Islamic quote made by the prophet of Islam.

Consequently, what Mr. Klein describes as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is instead an Islamic-Jewish conflict. Nevertheless, the situation should not be interpreted as an attempt "To bring Mid-East fanaticism" onto the

campus.

Secondly, the YASA was extremely offended when members of the Jewish Students Federation (JSF) demanded that a map, which identified all Arab nations of the world, be immediately removed from the table. Their premise for this request was that "Palestine is just a dream for the Arabs."

Furthermore, they refused to leave the table until the word "Palestine" be replaced by the word "Israel." Essentially, the YASA is dissatisfied with the manner in which the JSF manipulated the circumstances.

Finally, the MSF, MSA and YASA are extremely disappointed with the *Excalibur* for simply alleging the YASA was not available for comment, when in fact, no attempt for an interview was actually made.

Mohamad El-Assi

## Capt. Cool slams Ms. K. (and Pete too)

Re: Ms. Jodi Koberinski's "Cool Guy" letter to the editor of November 23, 1989.

Dear Editors:

Ms. Koberinski's letter was obviously insulting but clearly un-called for. She wrote her letter out of childish anger with no regard for the truth. Mr. Peter Donato did not open the November 15 forum in a kindly manner. He gave "us," (those who you refer to as Captain Cool Guy and the Boys) an ultimatum — either "shut up or leave." I'm sorry but such fascist behaviour is not in vogue this year.

We took challenge towards Mr. Donato's request for very good reasons. The east bear pit is a

popular social hang-out for hundreds of York students. Yet almost every week we are forced to listen to speeches or rallies that sometimes do not interest us. Ms. Koberinski is right that the east bear pit is for everyone, but it is not a convention centre. If the CYSF wants to have rallies — great — but why don't they use a common room or the Senate Chamber?

Perhaps they are scared that nobody will show? So they choose a place where they know people will always be at, the bear pit. Please do not interpret this to be some kind of territoriality complex. It's just that those of "us" who frequent the bear pit are tired of that area of being used to promote the political ambitions of

certain individuals.

Ms. Koberinski's disdain for our "group" is overridden by our "group's" disdain, not for whiners like Ms. Koberinski, but for those in the CYSF. During election time, dozens of candidates spew their political garbage for all the bear pit to hear. We listen and vote accordingly. Our disdain comes from the fact that prior candidates (like Peter Donato) behave like jackals throughout campaigns. They bootlick first "our" votes and later stab us in the back with arrogance and ultimatums. We will not forget this during election time. P.S. I guess "Cool Guys" do read *Excalibur*.

Captain Cool Guy  
East Bear Pit

## Vandoo shows shortcomings of CYSF list

Dear Editors:

Re: An open letter to CYSF president Peter Donato

Dear Mr. Donato:

We were very disappointed by your 'Christmas list' printed in the December 7 issue of *Excalibur*. You fail to recognize the work of the smaller college newspapers on the York campuses. Instead, you thank fraternities, sororities, a beer company, and the main campus caterer for "contributing to a successful first term."

In what way did frats/sororities contribute to the York student population? Did they do so by

dividing an already segregated student body? Does the CYSF really have the students' interest at heart?

Why do corporations such as Molson's, Marriott, and United Parcel Service have priority over student organizations such as the college newspapers? Isn't this what the CYSF was protesting a little more than a month ago? Obviously you have a very short memory — you are a true politician!

The staff of the *Atkinsonian*, the *Calumetro*, the *Flyer*, the *High-Lighter*, *Pro-Tem*, and our own *Vandoo* deserve more re-

cognition than the 'University of Manitoba Students' Union' in a York publication. Most of the people who contribute their time to these newspapers are volunteers, of any rave of religion, do not pay any fee and do not have to put up with hazing. Your disclaimer at the end of the list is not an apology.

The bias of your list makes one question the actual interests of the CYSF.

Regards  
Brett Lamb  
Editor, Vandoo

## Rampant rudeness in "service" depts.

Dear Editors:

I simply cannot contain my anger any longer. I must complain in the hopes that those who I am complaining about will recognize themselves and take the appropriate action. This letter is directed to those who work in the service departments here at York. I think my point would be best illustrated by the following example of a typical day I've recently had when dealing with the York service department.

The first incident occurred at the main cafeteria in Central Square. I was at the small snack bar located just before you enter the cafeteria. They had posters on the window which indicated that they sold frozen yogurt. I asked the server whether or not they had frozen yogurt and she very abruptly replied "no" and turned her back to me as she wiped down the counter. I inquired further and asked where I would be able to get some frozen yogurt, she replied with "here . . . but there isn't any more left and plus we are closing." With this said she turned her back once again and continued clearing the counter.

Incident number two occurred in the student affairs office. I went

in to inquire about the new student apartments. I said, "How can I go about getting one of the new student apartments?" The desk person replied again very abruptly, "Are you a graduate student?" I replied in the negative and then he said, "Then you can't get one," and then proceeded to turn his back. I questioned him further and was told, with what I consider to be a great deal of hostility and tension, that only graduate students and mature students were entitled to these apartments.

You know, they say everything happens in threes. Well, this day was no exception. The third incident occurred later on in the evening. My friend locked her keys in the car. Our first reaction was to call York Security and that's what we did. I spoke to York Security and advised them of the problem, the person with whom I was speaking replied, "The guy who does that is not here" to which I responded, "Do you know when he'll be back?" The response was, "Well, not until tomorrow morning." Feeling very frustrated, I asked if there was anything that York Security could do for me. The reply was that the only thing that I could do is call a tow truck which would cost

approximately \$45. Following this, he quickly hung up.

If the nature of my complaint is not yet evident, I will state it clearly. I am complaining about rampant rudeness that is taking place today primarily in the York service departments. I believe that an individual who takes positions in these departments should expect to exhibit a certain degree of politeness to customers. I know that there are many who would argue that perhaps these incidents were isolated and exclusive to one day. However, I would have to disagree vehemently. I have had to deal with this type of rudeness from these and other individuals since I began my year here at York. It is nothing like the type of courtesy which was described in York brochures.

To the York service departments, I ask that you choose your employees with greater care. To the present employees, I say please don't vent your anger and frustration. I suggest that you seek new employment where dealing with the public is not necessary.

Sharna Reid  
English/Political Science I

## CORRECTIONS

In the November 30 article "Fraternities and sororities form council," Peter Merrick, vice-president (external) of the CYSF was incorrectly identified. He is a founding father of the fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Excalibur* apologizes to dean of the faculty of arts Tom Traves. In the November 30 article, "English dept. \$ threatened," the quotes attributed to him were actually statements by Doug Saunders, a co-chair of the Association of English Students. We regret the editing error.



We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, double spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

## Quote of the Week

Norman Crandles, director of housing and food services, on the fact that the financial budget of his department was completely depleted by extensive repairs to 6 Assiniboine:

"I don't care, I just wanted to get the damn thing fixed."