

LETTERS

cont'd from page 4

American system, with which this article purports to deal.

Hopefully this interesting topic will be studied further by *Excal* with a more thorough and impartial perspective.

Sincerely,
Adam Blechman

Mullens is defrosted (?)

Dear Editor:

Whether Mary Mullens would have us believe that self-defrosting refrigerators make us lazy and unwilling to work is a curious point; nevertheless in her letter (*Excalibur*, Oct. 15), chastising secretaries who complain about their chairs and unequal pay, Mary committed the unfortu-

nate error of opening her refrigerator door too wide, and like being stuck in a farmer's pasture in a convertible with its hood down, she now must hold her breath, with her arms crossed. Yes, Mary, I saw the flying saucers you keep inside, next to that container of sour cream.

Whenever one feels that the claims of others betray a physical, moral or emotional weakness, that if they are unable to endure the conditions of their jobs they should unconditionally quit and find another, parallels the same sense of superiority only the truly insecure feel when they secretly steal into the night and ascent steep mountain paths and hurdle barb wire, all to claim a certain summit, a zenith of self-importance, where they wait until they're properly silhouetted against the moonlight to unleash their wind-up flying saucers upon the masses below. The next morning they read the press reports all too eagerly, snickering, feeling the destiny of

fools firmly under their control.

Such rugged individualism always had a strong back and keen eye for the real, the hard shiny surfaces of self-sacrifice. And if anyone dare claim a fetish for cushioned upholstery, collective bargaining or UFOS, be well aware of these minor eruptions from the inner steel shelves of Mary's GE fridge.

—Randy Terada

It's red faces all around over head

Editor,

I am writing this short note with regard to a letter which I had submitted to *Excalibur* some two weeks ago. This letter dealt with the subject of why there is a great need NOT to remove or ban radical groups from York's campus. *Excalibur* misinterpreted or misunderstood my point of view by stating that "York New

Democrats supported Liberty Coalition."

In my article I did not explicitly state my own support, or that of the New Democrats' support of the Coalition's policies or stances—my argument was based on supporting the principle of free speech at York. Lastly, I would like to apologize for my using the NDP banner under which I had written my letter.

Sincerely, Norman G. Kester
York New Democrats

Doctor Torneck, I presume?

Editor,

I wish to point out an error in perception in Paula Torneck's article of Oct. 1 entitled "Seminar Exposes Third World." In it she states that Dr. Livingstone "discovered" Victoria Falls.

Dr. Livingstone, having heard of this wonder while travelling in the

southern region of Africa, asked the people who lived in the vicinity of the falls to take him there; hardly a discovery. This is akin to someone from that area taking a bus trip to the Grand Canyon and upon sight raising their arms and proclaiming it the Nkomo Gorge (after Joshua Nkomo, the Matabele leader).

A more appropriate phrase would be to say the falls were "discovered for Europe" by Livingstone. It's a small point but perceptions such as these (even by those favourably disposed towards Africa) perpetuate the misconception that the importance of African history only began with initial European contact.

This misconception also translates for the indigenous Indian population of North and South America, the Aborigines of Australia, the Maori of New Zealand, etc.

The term "discoverer" is best reserved for those who truly did make an initial discovery."

Peter Sundiata

Touring through the Museum of "Neo-new" Journalism

By LORNE MANLY

Welcome to the *People Magazine Museum of Journalism*. I'm your guide for the afternoon's festivities—would you please step this way.

As we begin the tour, we'll pass through the *USA Today* Hall, our pride and joy here at the Museum. We felt it deserved to be separate from the rest of the press section as it's so symbolic of the direction journalism has taken these past few years.

Now, over on your left is the TV Wing—we are very proud of this area of the building. This month the Museum is highlighting one of my favourites—*Entertainment Tonight*. Did you know that Mary Hart's legs are insured with Lloyd's of London for a million dollars, American? Amazing, isn't it?

We apologize for any inconvenience the construction may cause you, but we're always putting in new exhibits. Speaking of additions, here's our latest—*Linda Frum's Guide to Canadian Universities*. Representative of what we like to call the 'neo-new journalism,' this book is composed of breezy, glib snapshots of 42 Canadian universities and six affiliated colleges. It's perfect for bathroom reading—just think, a different school every visit.

Much like the other displays in the Museum, there's very little in here that will tax your poor, oversaturated minds. With you in mind, Ms. Frum has decided not to "spend too much time dwelling on the academic quality of the universities . . . let's leave that subject to your parents and guidance counsellor."

So what you'll be treated to, once you shell out \$14.95, is all the information "you really need to know to make the best decision about where to go to university. You'll

find out which schools are hot and which are not. You'll find out where the best parties are, the best teams, the best dorms, the best-looking girls and boys . . . Most of all, you'll find out where the fun is and how you can get in on it (I'll give you the address)."

I'll let you in on a little secret, ladies and gentlemen. After reading that gem of a paragraph on page one, tears of joy filled the eyes of the Museum's directors. They knew Ms. Frum was one of their own. The rest of the book only confirmed that feeling.

The helpful Do's and Don'ts after each university reminded the Directors of their own best work:

- At the University of Prince Edward Island: "Do bring your ladies' attire, men. You'll want to compete in all the exciting transvestite events."
- At Dalhousie: "Don't let your daddies scare you out of coming to Halifax because it's a port town. Unless you go out of your way to find them, sailors are not going to be a big feature of your life."
- At McGill: "Don't develop phobias about wearing dead people's clothes. Unless you sometimes wear some second-hand clothing, no one will respect you."
- And at York: "Do wear protective gear when you remind Osgoode law students that they're students at York! They hate that."

Ms. Frum's year of intensive research also paid off in some remarkably stereotypical observations on Canada's campuses—definitely a prerequisite for entry to the Museum. Take a look, ladies and gentlemen, at these displays. In our Waterloo exhibit, you'll find 'nerds.' "Remember the guy in your high-school calculus class

who wore thick glasses, flood pants, and carried 16 sharpened pencils in his breast pocket—and would never lend you one because you should have brought your own? . . . Well, now he's the most popular guy in his class at Waterloo University (sic)."

Over here, in the 'hoser' category, you'll find Lakehead. "Back-bacon, tuques (sic), beer, doughnuts, Grebs, blizzards, trees, more trees, and a university president known as Uncle Bob. Welcome to Canada! The real Canada—the home of Bob and Doug McKenzie, Pierre Berton, and mukluks."

I think this gives you an idea why we here at the *People Magazine Museum of Journalism* are so thrilled with our newest exhibit. But just as *USA Today* has a top notch sports section and a beautiful four colour weather map, *Linda Frum's Guide to Canadian Universities* provides the reader with some useful material. It gives you information about tuition, admission cut-off grades, the student population, residence fees, athletic facilities, and the cities and towns in which the schools are located.

Yet even in these sections, Ms. Frum tumbles back into her smug stereotypes with categories such as 'Typical Garb' (at the University of Calgary it's "scaled down urban chic") and campus political attitudes (at York, if you weren't sure, it's "York students support whichever political party is for malls and Trans Ams.") And that, as sports writers are wont to say, drove the final nail into the coffin, making Ms. Frum's book the newest addition to our Museum.

Thank you for joining us today. I hope you enjoyed the tour and will come visit us again soon. Have a wonderful day.

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ON OCTOBER 28

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