

makes a perfect ice-breaker when out "chasing tail."

He is sometimes a physically and mentally abusive person, who sees a feminist alliance as a means of moral redemption.

While I'm heartened to learn that many women aren't buying these boy-boys, I'm saddened to see political figures winning their hearts by taking advantage of the Université de Montréal tragedy. In bad taste, these power-mongers make "heroes" of dead women for quick political gain.

Not that feminists themselves are without blame. Waging war in the abrasive manner they do is bound to incite irrationality in return, though I will agree such measures are necessary to attract initial attention.

Now that the modern world is sensitized to gender equality, we should be able to do without the immutable Gloria Steinem and Judy Reicks. Unless all women want to be cast from the same political, cultural and economic mold these "leaders" embody, the debate must move to an individual level.

Men, as a group, cannot be blamed for injustice to women, another arbitrary group. Only the individual, one we can actually point to, is capable of delivering injury, incident by incident. Marc Lepine, the individual, is guilty of killing those girls.

Most men have never killed or abused any women and yet feel damned for life when placed into the same category as this one criminal.

As is all too common with social activism at any level, fire-breathing is characteristic of a fervent but delusive campaign to change the past. What's always left out of the sermon is that a large percentage of men is peripheral to the archetypal "bad guy."

Like any revenge movement, reverse-sexism can only engender reverse-sexism, and so on. Surely feminism can be more progressive than that.

"La violence enfante la violence."

Christen Armour-Kidson

## World doesn't revolve around women

I'd like to dispense with the traditional platitudes and say that your paper is an awful piece of journalism and a good example of university overfunding.

I am truly tired of reading the feminist inspired fallacies that grace your pages. In a recent issue nearly every headline concerned a "feminist" story. Headline after editorial after paragraph discussing lesbian pornography, date rape and those awful people who dared not agree that Marc Lepine Massacre Day was worthy of a reprieve from class.

Indeed, the only true value of that issue were the "Blueberry Hill" coupons at the back giving me my access to a 2-for-1 burger (an issue close to many student hearts).

Now, before you hold this letter up as living proof of the intolerance and oppression permeating this campus, perhaps you could widen your vision and cover some other issues (e. g. the bureaucracy of York and the resulting low service level).

I don't want to diminish the problem of rape nor do I want to forget the poor victims of a maniac, but you are doing a great disservice to the majority of the student body who need other issues discussed.

I would suggest that the same sort of maniac zeal that motivated Marc Lepine's hatred of women is manifesting itself in radical feminism's (to which *excalibur* apparently subscribes) disdain of maleness.

Perhaps it is time for your staff to

step back, take a deep breath, and realize that the world and the campus does not revolve around women and their issues.

Indeed, I would add that you and your ilk (radical feminists) are guilty of the same narcissism and intolerance of your accused oppressors.

Camille Paglia is right, "you feminists" are in a Stalinist phase and you better shake it soon or else your shrill will dissipate into nothingness.

Arthur Lofsky  
MBA '93

## Debaters bear good news

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the success the debating society had while representing York University at the Leger Cup Debating Tournament on Hollowing weekend.

The team of Paul Cuifo and Lawrence Rabie came in second in the tournament, held at Bishops to deter-



Graphic by Claudia Davila

mine the best debaters in Central Canada. Cuifo and Rabie were debating a resolution concerning the simplification of the English language.

We were also represented by Sarah Hoddinott, Mathew Louie, Debra Moskowitz and Angela Musso, who all had impressive results.

We are proud that the York Debating Teams did so well in this prestigious tournament. However, we would like the rest of York to be proud of them, and recognize the achievement they richly deserve. Considering all the problems York has with overcrowding, underfunding, racism, and sexism, we feel that some good news about York is needed.

Adrian Howell  
York Debating Society

## Chinese figures off the mark

Your interview "Back to Beijing" (Oct. 21) with Timothy Brook has been sent to me, and I must ask why he accepts without proof the Chinese government's estimate of some hundreds being killed at Tiananmen Square. Others who were there estimate "hundreds, if not thousands."

No one can say which is correct, but in the chaos that ensued when the tanks rolled into the square over sleeping students and the soldiers opened fire, bodies were immediately taken out of sight both by the army and by the students. It is true that many died off the square but they were all part of the same incident.

In these circumstances, for Mr. Brook to say one has "to allow the Chinese government's figures to stand" is nonsense.

Had the government waited a few more days, the students would have drifted back to school for their exams.

I was in China when martial law was declared, and the students I spoke to said their main concerns were nepotism and corruption of the system, only to make it more open. When the Statue of Peace (looking like the American Statue of Liberty) was brought onto the square, the government was spooked and reacted viciously, believing Americans were behind the scenes.

This doesn't mean one has to accept the minimizing of the event by the Chinese government.

John V. Stephens, Q. C.

## Health rates article botched

As Health Plan Administrator at YFS, I should know better than most people whether we can expect the cost of the plan to increase next year. However, all I know is that it is too early to tell.

Therefore, I was somewhat shocked to find myself quoted on the front page



Graphic by Meredith Munger

of your paper, predicting an increase in the cost of the health plan ("Health Plan Cost Could Rise", Nov. 18).

To set the record straight, here is my opinion on next year. Health costs are increasing in Ontario at a rate of over 15% per year. All health plans will have to increase premiums at about the same rate in the long run. From year to year, increases may be larger or smaller, depending on how accurately the previous year's rates were set. Actuarial science is not only boring, it's also complicated. It will not be until the first months of claims are tallied, that anyone will know what students can expect next year. OK?

By the way, if you are going to state that "only 18 percent" of students voted in last year's referendum, why don't you also point out that this constituted the largest group of student voters for any referendum or election in York's history?

David Taylor  
Health Plan Administrator, YFS

## Replies stifle free speech

I attempted to abstain from the recent attacks (we cannot call it a debate) surrounding Ira Nayman's Oct. 12, piece, but I can be silent no longer.

I do not write to criticize Nayman (which I could), but the propaganda of the letter writing campaign to silence him. The letters are completely false and counter to any notions of free speech and debate.

For example, Heuman and Holland doubt Nayman's "one-sided" account of the Israeli soldiers' torture of a Palestinian boy. The boy is possibly "guilty," they say.

Heuman says the torture was "unjustified" if the boy was "minding his own business", but if he was "committing a crime", it was not only "justified" but "required."

First, several documented reports of Israeli military torture of innocent Palestinians exist. Second, regardless of what the boy did, is his desire to have his homeland returned a crime? Israel illegally occupies the West Bank and Gaza (and historical Palestine). So the mere presence of an Israeli soldier in the occupied territories is a crime of international law.

To use Heuman's terms, I submit that the boy and many other Palestinians are daily "minding (their) own business", that of the liberation of their homeland from the occupying forces. This is no crime.

Holland correctly sees the Intifada as "part of a larger geopolitical problem", yet the problem is *not* Israel's

"quest for security," but its quest for domination and expansion into Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, all sovereign nations who have parts or all of their countries occupied by Israel.

Nayman's piece obviously set off a letter writing binge to "correct" it (as will this letter). However, we must not be swayed by their lies and tactics. We must counter the hype with what really takes place in Palestine, or Israel, as the occupiers call it.

Dimbil A. Hashi

## Hethinks they protest too much

Last week I was glancing through my *Toronto Star* when I came across the name Heather Dryden. It seems that she was protesting Pat Buchanan's speaking engagement. Subsequently to this, I read in *excalibur* that both Miss Dryden and Michelle Chai did this on YFS-paid time. Now, the last time I looked, Mr. Buchanan was an American, and further, he has nothing to do with the system of education at York, Ontario, or even Canada for that matter.

Methinks that Miss Dryden and Miss Chai doth protest too much! Even Pat Buchanan stated in his address that the majority of Americans don't hold much of a concern for Canada, giving the analogy of a latent arthritis. So, with this said, what the hell are Miss Dryden and Miss Chai (an unelected YFS official) so damn concerned about, and why is a portion of my academic fees being put towards these fruitless efforts? Maybe they just felt like getting out for a while.

Don't get me wrong, I think Pat Buchanan is a nut. But, I have the common sense to realize he is no threat to me as a Canadian student. Maybe the YFS professional protest squad should stick to issues relating to the ever-increasing cost of education. But don't listen to me and my likes, because, remember, I'm the guy who was impeached.

Ron Stubbings  
VP External YFS (impeached)

## Remembrance Day sadly forgotten

As a first-year student at York, I recently had an experience on campus which was deeply hurtful and saddening.

It had nothing to do with my color or religion, although it insulted my family and their history. As the Senate sits and debates whether we are to be given one hour or the whole afternoon off to commemorate the deaths at Ecole Polytechnique, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month I was sitting in lecture taking notes. 14 women died because of their sex in the Mark Lepine shootings, but more than 20 million died because of their religion, race or sexual orientation in only one of the events commemorated Nov. 11.

With the current uprising of Neo-Nazi terrorism in Europe, where 'Heil Hitler' is once again shouted with pride, can we afford to ignore Remembrance Day? My grandfather worries that young people have forgotten the reasons and nature of the sacrifice he and his peers made, and after this year I'm scared that he might be right.

Jocelyne Pasman

## Why arrest activists?

On Nov. 19, four activists were arrested for mischief. The only thing they were guilty of was compassion. They were arrested because they were blocking the road to a \$500 a plate fundraising dinner for none other than the Right Honorable Brian Mulroney. This is the man who's political agenda has reduced social spending in order to create an attractive business climate. Every time we need health care, attend school, or apply for OSAP, we are affected by these reductions in social spending.

The same police who were dragging people off the road, were recently refusing to write tickets because they disapproved of legislation that would inconvenience them when shooting people. The same government which has virtually declared bankruptcy when funding social programs, has all of a sudden found enough money to buy fifty \$90 million helicopters.

Health care, education, and welfare are all terribly underfunded. All of these services could be vastly improved if that \$4.4 billion was spent on them. Why are we not screaming for this to happen? I cannot speak for myself — I was demonstrating on Nov. 19. The small group that was with me, however, cannot bring about change alone. United, we can bring that money back where it belongs — funding the programs and services that make Canada an attractive country to people.

David Hermolin  
External Commissioner, YFS

## excal supports sensationalism

I am writing in response to your editorial "Don't let people 'protect' you from dangerous ideas" (Nov. 25), in which you portray those unhappy about the upcoming Reg Hartt event as opponents of freedom of expression. The show will suggest that Jesus was a homosexual.

It is difficult to understand the recent preoccupation with raising doubts about the sexual orientation of famous people. Hemingway has had his orientation posthumously reversed by biographers. The movie actor Tom Selleck rightly took offense at the falsehoods which the tabloids printed about him. Evidently these allegations sell books and magazines.

*Excalibur's* position is that the Hartt presentation will simply be raising questions and, therefore, that the university, as a forum for the free exchange of ideas, is a fitting venue. I would argue that the university is a place for serious, not sensational, questions. Universities ought not to imitate scandal sheets. Will *excalibur* soon be organizing evenings to examine some of the multitude of "questions" raised by the National Enquirer?

I suspect that Mr. Hartt's real aim is, simply, to shock and offend. He has succeeded. We who know and love Jesus are saddened by the misrepresentations he sells.

Patrick Moore

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