

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalbur, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalbur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

American holidays on York calendars

Ancient history has taught me to view the present with suspicion: something said to be "new" may in fact turn out to be very old.

New, for example, is the office calendar for 1978 that came to me as it came to other faculty members last month, with the compliments of your friendly central purchasing agency, York University. At first sight, nothing aroused my suspicion: the calendar looked alright. It called itself on the cover page "Your new bilingual office calendar for 1978".

A second and closer look reveals that the bilingualism of this calendar does not go very far. To be precise: it ends on December 31, 1978. After that the loose-leaf pages are printed in English only. On these English-only loose-leaf pages are printed the important dates 1978-1984 (yes, 1984).

A comparison of the "important dates" in this new and ever-so-bilingual calendar with the im-

portant dates given in last year's calendar taught me how we are being de-Canadianized by our friendly manufacturers of office calendars (as bought by York U.). In the new calendar, there is no more Victoria Day, no Dominion Day, no St. John Baptist Day, no Remembrance Day (no Canadian holidays any more).

Instead, we get Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Independence Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Veteran's Day and Columbus Day (in other words: US holidays only).

Thanksgiving Day - always the 2nd Monday in October in Canada - in 1978 is November 23 (third Thursday in November).

But not only the specifically Canadian holidays have been deleted and replaced by US holidays - specifically Christian - Catholic holidays have also been done away with. No more Epiphany, no more Ascension Day, no All Saints Day.



Instead: Passover 1st Day, Passover 7th Day, Passover Last Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah. Of Christian holidays, only Good Friday, Ash Wednesday and Christmas have been left standing.

My questions: who bought these calendars, all made - obviously - in the US? Somebody in the Purchasing Department. Why were these US-made calendars bought? Why no Canadian calendars? The - predictable - answer will be that the US calendar seemed to be "better value" for the money budgeted.

And so we acquiesce. Obviously, if the US calendar is cheaper, "of course" it must be bought. With the Canadian taxpayer's money.

No matter what is being done to our minds. We are made to forget our own cultural and historical heritage. We are made to accept the US heritage hook, line and sinker, all this is the same university that only a few months ago hosted a conference on "Canadian Unity" (paid for out of the taxpayer's contributions.)

That's the way the Romans made their subjugated nations forget their indigenous heritage: supply the defeated barbarians with Roman gods and goddesses, with Roman processions and law procedures, with Roman festivals, tiles and bricks, bathrubs and dinnerware, with the Latin language. And so - the subjects will forget their own identity, will become "Romanized".

A lesson from history. Here endeth the first chapter.

Walter Beringer
History Prof., Glendon



Would you buy a used calendar from this man?

ALAN 76
MONTREAL GAZETTE

Jeffrey Forest and Freedom of expression

The Halpern-Ganz letter of December 1 and the Edson letter of December 8 call for "controls" on the Central Square information booths which would, in my view, be very unfortunate and probably unworkable. The neutrality of the Central Square has been respected by all over the last seven years and we should not let the emotional reactions of one or two people panic us into changing the rules. Good manners and toleration should continue to be the "rule". Only in this way can the principle of freedom of expression be maintained for all.

The comment about a 'minority group' can be very misleading. There is some evidence that the minority group of today can be the angry mob of tomorrow. Minorities change and each situation must be analysed to determine who it is that is being coerced.

Similarly 'hate literature' is not a phrase which should be casually thrown out as part of a debating technique. The Criminal Code of Canada defines penalties for distributing such material and the Courts should be involved in defining offensive material. Every member of the University should be alert to this type of material being distributed and should not hesitate to respond as a responsible citizen. The University as an institution cannot, however, come to a collective decision about what 'qualifies' under this definition and then take action to limit the distribution of material. That would make the University a censor and impair freedom of expression.

The one day cancellation of a booth permit for the York Student Movement was, of course, a momentary limitation on their freedom of expression and was thought prudent in view of the fracas that erupted the previous working day. For the University to define a brief "cooling off" period, given the preceding events, cannot be seen as a violation of the basic principle of freedom of speech.

John A. Becker

The GAA defends him, but

Council wants him fired

At last the student press on campus has seen fit to tell its readers what happens at CYSF student government meetings. Inevitably with the volume of information and motions presented at these meetings there will be errors in the presentation of the facts.

The last article referred to the executive committee's proposal to the university administration to have lecturer Jeffrey Forest suspended. Actually, the Hayden executive asked the administration to dismiss him. I guess the administration was not foolish enough to actually fire him outright and so suspended him for a couple of weeks even though he has not even had a legal hearing yet. The executive proposal was nonetheless endorsed by a majority of the CYSF when the meeting was forced to consider ratification of the executive motion.

Secondly, in a previous article I was quoted as saying that graduate students working for the university are receiving "lower" wages this year. I had really said low wages but considering that inflation is running at better than 8 per cent and that the wage increase (so far) has only been some 6.5 per cent the real wages of graduate students have indeed declined. So I must admit that your error was more correct than my original statement.

P.S. The Graduate Assistants' Association has filed a grievance under the Labour Relations Act to have Forest reinstated.

Abie Weisfeld
Graduate rep. on CYSF

on campus

entertainment

Tuesday, 12 noon and 1 pm - Concert (Calumet) featuring the Barry Elmes Jazz Quintet - Calumet Common Room, Atkinson

Wednesday, 4 pm - 6 pm - Concert (Music) of 20th century music, featuring Lewis Goldstein [piano solo] - F. Curtis.

Jan. 6-20 - Paintings from the CIL Art Collection - McLaughlin Hall; 12 noon - 7 pm (Monday-Friday), 2 pm - 5 pm (Sunday)

clubs, meetings

Today, 1 pm - Yiddish (JSF) introductory course - S127, Ross

1 pm - The Language of Prayer (JSF) - S536, Ross

2 pm - 11 pm - Meeting - of the York Ski Club; a presentation of future ski trips, a general workshop on skiing, films, and a demonstration of ski technique and What the Beginner Should Be Ready For - Sylvester's (201), Stong

3 pm - Jewish Women's Consciousness Raising - S127, Ross

3 pm - 4:30 pm - Sociology Undergraduate Discussion Club -

S552, Ross
5 pm - 7 pm - York Chorus Rehearsal - Theatre (112), Stong
7:30 (pm) - Society for Creative Anachronism - SCR, Founders

Friday, 12 noon - Backgammon Workshop (JSF) - S127, Ross

2 pm - 5 pm - Winters Chess Club - 030A, Winters; also same times on Wednesday

Monday, 9 am - 12 noon - Political Science Student-Faculty lounge, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday until further notice; coffee available - S652, Ross

11 am & 12 noon - Visual Art From the Bible - 220, Stong

1 pm - Jewish Crafts (JSF) - S536, Ross

3 pm - Basic Judaism ((JSF) - S122, Ross; and Beginners Hebrew (JSF) - S173, Ross

4 pm - Intermediate Conversational Hebrew (JSF) - S173, Ross

7:15 & 8:15 pm - York Yoga Club - for information call Axel Molema at 742-0878, or Howard Halpern at 884-2671 - 202 Vanier

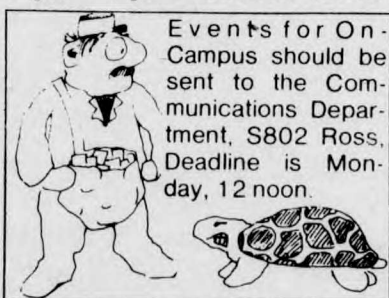
7:30 pm - York Bridge Club - Vanier Dining Hall

Tuesday, 12 noon - Speaker - Discussion (JSF) on leading a traditional or creative synagogue service - S127, Ross

12 noon - 1 pm - Yoga Instruction - 218, Bethune

2 pm - Beginners Talmud (JSF) -

S123, Ross
5 pm - 7 pm - Student Writers



Association Workshop - Calumet Reading Room, Atkinson

8 pm - Gay Alliance at York - 227, Bethune

Wednesday, 3 & 4:30 pm - Speakers - Discussion (JSF) covering Hassidic and mystical topics (at 3) and Jewish Law (at 4:30) - S122, Ross

5 pm - General Meeting - of Calumet College - Calumet Common Room, Atkinson

Events for On-Campus should be sent to the Communications Department, S802 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.

Today, 8 - 10 pm - Badminton Club - also Tuesday, 5:30 - 8 pm - Upper Gym, Tait McKenzie

Friday, 7 am - 9 am - Staff-Faculty Hockey - Ice Arena

6 pm - Women's Basketball - York vs. Ottawa - Tait McKenzie

7 pm - 10 pm - Recreational Bad-

minton - Upper Gym, Tait McKenzie

8:15 pm - Men's Basketball - York vs. Guelph - Tait McKenzie

Saturday, 6 pm - Men's Invitational Gymnastic Meet - teams competing include university squads from Laurentian, Queen's, Western, Toronto and Eastern Michigan - admission is free - Tait McKenzie.

Monday, 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm - Conditioning for Men and Women - each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, - Main Gym, Tait McKenzie

miscellaneous

Today, 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Counselling, Bible Classes (York Christian Fellowship) contact Rev. P. Phillips (457-6737) - Scott Religious Centre

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. - Roman Catholic Mass - Scott Religious Centre

Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Christian Counselling & Religious Consultation - call Chaplain Judt at 667-3171 or 633-2158 - Scott Religious Centre

10 a.m. - Computer Science 101 Tutorial - 107, Stedman; also at 2

p.m. in S130, Ross
12 noon - Noon Mass - each Monday, Tuesday, Friday - Scott Religious Centre

special lectures

Today 4 p.m. - Mathematics Colloquium - *Representations of Banach Algebras* by Professor C.J. Mulvey, University of Sussex - N203, Ross

Friday, 4 p.m. - Mathematics Colloquium - *On the Empirical Process When Parameters Are Estimated* by Professor Murray Burke, University of Calgary - N203, Ross

Monday, 10 a.m. - Guest speaker (Natural Science 180.6B) *Toxic Drugs* with Wm. Kalow, University of Toronto - A, Curtis

Tuesday, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Writing: a Practical Guide (Stong) *Style and Creativity in Writing* - how to be creative in the essay; a consideration of what constitutes effective style in various disciplines - 112, Stong

Wednesday, 10 a.m. - Guest Speaker (Natural Science 180.6B) *The Food Supply and Its Effect on Health* with D.M. Riva, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute - A, Curtis