



ESIRI DAFIEWHARE, 1960-1987: York poet Esiri Dafiewhare (right) passed away suddenly on February 15. A native of Nigeria, Dafiewhare was a Ph.D. student in York's English department and an outspoken critic of both the military government in his home country and the South African apartheid regime. He was active in the York Student Movement Against Apartheid and his letters, opinion columns and poetry have appeared in *Excalibur*. Two days before he died, Dafiewhare participated in Black History Week, speaking on literature's role in the struggle of the African people.

Vegetarian foods coming to Winter's

By PAULA TORNECK

Mr. Potatohead and all of his friends are alive, well and being served at Winter's College.

Beginning Friday, February 27th, Soy City Foods will be introducing an assortment of vegetarian products at Winter's College. "All the vegetarian products are manufactured in Toronto and are made from organic soy bean products," says Richard Fenton, sales manager of Soy City Foods. "It's all natural. There are no additives, preservatives, artificial colourings or flavourings." All the products are certified kosher by the Canadian Orthodox Rabbinical Society.

Veggie Burger and Falafel sandwiches will be offered daily at Win-

ter's College, along with a daily tofu or tempura entrée special.

Soy City Foods was established in 1981 and is owned by its workers. "All of the workers are basically vegetarians themselves, and are committed to providing good vegetarian products for other," Fenton said. The company's logo is "Health

is the most precious thing you have. Sustain it by eating good food."

On Friday, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., representatives from Soy City Food will be at Winter's cafeteria giving demonstration and handing out free samples of their products. Everyone is welcome.

YES campaign begins blanketing campus

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our (the students') position on the management board with the University."

Castle and Blink are beginning to intensify their YES campaign by putting up posters around campus which will address the why, where

and how much issues of the Student Centre proposal. "We'll be going around knocking on doors, talking to people in Central Square," Castle said, "and there will be a snowfall across the parking lot of brochures to get the message out to commuter students."

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Reader disagrees with Platoon analysis

Editor:

Re: "Platoon ignores non-Yank view."

Restraining my loathing for critics who distill movies for their "message" I cannot agree with Patricia Bush's (letter, Feb. 12, 1987) premise that *Platoon* is a "truly American story." If by this she means an idealistic depiction lionizing the Americans I must profoundly disagree. She breaks down this sophisticated film into a neat "message"; our boys (American) and innocent Vietnamese villagers are inhumanly killed, but the enemy deserves it.

This summation is ironic for several reasons. First of all, Chris Taylor, the main character, ignores a struggling Vietcong to murder American Sergeant Barnes who he evidently believes more deserving of death than the former. Taylor comments at the end of the film that "it was not the enemy we fought, but ourselves." The movie also demonstrates the racism within the American ranks and the unfair draft system wherein the poor or misfortunate were pitifully exploited. Sergeant Barnes rails that the Government is fighting the war with "one hand tied around their balls." Now if this is the best propaganda the "American vantage point" can offer, the US military policy will remain open to criticism.

Bush seems not to realize that the "innocent Vietnamese villagers" in the movie are killed by "glorious" American soldiers! (While not justifying the American actions, it is well to remember that "innocent villagers" housed ammunition and supplies for the Vietcong, and often resorted to guerrilla warfare.) Even if the more ardent American supporters in the audience applauded the killings, at least half of the *Platoon*—Taylor included—were left appalled and disgusted. One American soldier, not exactly the reincarnation of John Wayne, exclaims, "Let's waste the fuckin' village," as he nears the brink of psychosis. Many American vets have protested the grim por-

trayal of the American soldier in *Platoon*. Others have lauded the film as the most accurate "Nam" movie ever produced. Its director, Oliver Stone, based the film on his own combat experiences in Viet Nam.

If the movie has any obvious "message" it must be found in the vivid and terrifying depiction of combat in the dark, dense Vietnam Jungle; here the "enemy," portrayed through the soldier's eyes, was not only "faceless" as Bush says, but often invisible.

—Michael Byram

How much for the In-Chief position?

Editor:

As a member of the York community and loyal reader of *Excalibur* I was excited to see that you are now taking applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief. This is a tremendous opportunity for someone like myself to get involved with the *Excalibur* organization.

But this position of Editor does not interest me; however, I would like to know more about the other advertised post of In-Chief. What is expected from such a job? Is this a full time paid position, and if it is, does it pay more than just a few blankets and some beads? Moreover if I do not have Native status am I disqualified from the job?

—Out-Chief David Ackerman and waiting to come in

Story gives Chus moral support

Editor:

I am very impressed that your newspaper (in the February 12 issue) showed great interest and concern over what happened to your fellow students (the Chus). Such a measure gives them moral support, especially since they are visa students and don't have too many people to turn to for help and advice.

Please follow up on the case if feasible, as it would be of great interest to know the truth.

—Myrna Poon



Coming Soon!!
(to a bearpit near you)

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1. Do robots do windows?

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- Hear Dr. Mordechai Nisan of Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Representatives from Israeli universities and yeshivas will speak

3. Can Jews and Arabs live together peacefully?

Screening of CFTO-TV movie "The Twice Promised Land" with Israeli co-producer David Harel

Stay tuned to next week's *Excalibur* for a more detailed Schedule of Events

More Questions?

Call Jewish Student Federation 736-5178 or Isaac 638-6854

Sponsored by: Jewish Student Federation, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ben Gurion Centennial Committee

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