

EDITORIAL

Not all journalists are mean, heartless individuals who don't consider the implications of what they write.

This is especially the case at student newspapers like *Excalibur*. We don't get rich here. Indeed, most people who write for this paper do it on a strictly volunteer basis.

Student journalists are at university for the same reason as everyone else: to get an education.

For the people who give up some of their busy time to contribute, *Excalibur* is, hopefully, part of that education.

There are those who join the *Excalibur* staff as the first step towards a career in journalism.

Some people who work here see it as a way of getting to know the campus better.

Still others come to our paper because they are angry, or because they feel alienated by the concrete wasteland known as York University.

This paper, and other publications on campus give all students a chance to air their feelings and concerns.

Nowhere else but at a student-run newspaper, for example, can there be freedom from the tyranny of a publisher's pressure on editorial content.

If an active and informative press is important in the outside world, it should be valued even more highly at an institution which purports to advance critical thought about the society in which we live.

In order to do all these things, however, student journalists face many obstacles.

We must juggle busy class schedules, family life, part time jobs and of course, the important events which we are assigned to cover.

Along with these tasks, a section editor faces the added complications of juggling the schedules of an entire staff of writers, production and editorial deadlines and any other last minute problems which develop.

Sometimes writers are, for quite legitimate reasons, not able to cover their stories.

This responsibility then falls upon the editor. Indeed, it is not unusual to find editors working on their sections until far into the night. Most editors spend upwards of 25 hours a week plying their trade.

All of this, incidentally, doesn't leave time for much of a social life. In the sports section for example, the vast majority of events are scheduled to be on the weekend, a time traditionally used for other pursuits.

But most writers do not mind these rigors, otherwise they simply wouldn't be working on a student newspaper.

Writers and editors begin to get discouraged, however, when their efforts are taken for granted.

Although most of the people we deal with are quite reasonable and allow us room for human error, sometimes, we are not even given the benefit of a doubt.

Sometimes, the criticism we mete out is justified, sometimes we make honest mistakes.

Cut us some slack; we're learning just like everyone else at university.



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Re-examine (wo)man

To the editor,

We are pleased to see that *Excalibur* has added to their agenda a column dealing specifically with issues surrounding women and gender discrimination. We are equally pleased to see that this column will feature a variety of writers to allow for the necessary diversity of views, opinions and perspectives.

However, we find that the title of the article, "The dissent of (wo)man," to be detrimental to the article's objective.

By placing the wo of woman within brackets you reinforce the perception of woman as the "other," as an extension of man, as being on the margin.

One of the greatest obstacles feminists face in deconstructing our existing ideology is the construction of man as the measure of all things, and woman as an entity which differs from, and must be compared to the ideal: man.

Once again we commend you for your efforts to elucidate gender issues, but implore you to re-examine your construction of woman.

Sincerely
Elise Chenier

Central Square who pointed out where our money for OFS and CFS would be better spent. For example, you could get a yummy and environmentally-conscious meal at McDonalds or new lingerie.

Since this enlightenment, we have come up with some items which could be added to this oh so important list. For seven dollars a truly concerned student could take their whole family to the "Into the Heart of Africa" exhibit or buy a six pack of Coors.

Who really cares about having our voices heard?

We are also glad to see that while "STRENGTH in numbers" means being responsible to, and for, beliefs in student unity, "STRENGTH (see Central Square banner) in numbers" needn't be concerned with that same responsibility to people. Let's just get that damned banner signed!

We admire the "sign this petition if you are against [fill in the blank] approach. After all in the true Machiavellian spirit the end justifies the means, right?"

Finally, thank you for showing us that students united to address issues such as racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, environmental issues, university underfunding (blah blah blah etc etc etc) are merely occupying themselves with trivial concerns.

With respect and solidarity,
Nikki Gershbin & Elissa Horscroft (sans coalitions)

The West in general want to have credibility then they must be consistent in their policies. The daily newspapers provide ample evidence that this consistency is simply not there.

The next letter appeared in the Nov. 5 issue. The writer, Asher Levy, does not appear to know the norms of civilized criticism. He accuses me of being a hypocrite, an extremist, and then to top it all he advises me to leave the West.

Mr. Levy, there is something called constructive criticism, and this is what I did in the article. Perhaps, you only know about destructive criticism — at least this is the impression I get from your letter.

As to your claim that I am an extremist and a hypocrite, I fail to see how you got this idea. After all, it was you who suggested that Israel was above criticism — do I sense a little bit of Meir Kahane here? Who is the extremist and hypocrite now?

Mr. Levy goes on to advise me to "LEAVE" the West. To this I say, THANKS BUT NO THANKS. My loyalties are to Canada, and yes, Mr. Levy I am very thankful for the freedom of expression allowed in this country and I plan to make use of it to promote justice.

The writer of the third letter (Nov. 7) states that "UN animosity towards Israel culminated 15 years ago with the infamous resolution equating Zionism with racism."

Well this is correct, but what does this accomplish when the US keeps vetoing (Mr. Levy, this is UN democracy for you) any real action against Israel? Does the destruction of Lebanon ring a bell? How about the bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunisia?

While referring to the massacre of members of the Muslim Brotherhood by the Syrian regime and massacre of the Kurds by Saddam Hussein the writer asks, "Where was Faisal Kutty then?" To tell you the truth, I was speaking out against these atrocities, unfortunately I did not know about the *Excalibur* so I was not able to share my views with you.

The writer goes on to say that I wrote the piece "to castigate Israel

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There's a staff meeting on Wednesday at 4:00 pm. You are cordially invited to attend. Wear your best!

EXCALIBUR

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish twice-weekly, and distribute across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excalibur* staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

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A 1,001 thank yous

To the editor

Thank God/Roger Waters (see Central Square banner), there are people at York who care about informing students truthfully.

It seems that all we've been hearing about in the past few months is fighting racism, sexism, homophobia and other "student concerns."

What a downer! And, anyway, what's the problem?

So, we would like to thank the group of progressive students in

Kutty responds to letters

To the editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the letters that my opinion piece generated over the past month.

In the first letter (Oct. 31), the writer claimed that I "arrived at many conclusions by ignoring important facts."

I would like to say that I made only one conclusion; if the UN and