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both Israeli and Arab intellectuals and leaders. His insight into the Odds for Peace was a wonderful opportunity for York students to learn about the problems that plague the area. It is terribly unfortunate that some students were hurt by Sheuftan's presentation, but his message was neither slanderous, nor racist. In fact accusing him of slander or racism is itself racism and slander.

The core of Sheuftan's message was that compromise is necessary. He called on the Arabs to recognize Israel and on Israel to withdraw from most of the Occupied Territories. Somehow this message has been misconstrued as intolerance. Actually, it was just the opposite. It is a shame that Sheuftan's speech was not the springboard for useful discussion between Arab and Jewish students. Instead, it has become another item on the long list of misunderstandings and hostilities. Hopefully sometime in the future Arabs and Jews will have better things to talk about.

Corey Ross

## Israel has too much to lose

Dear Editor,

I'd like to comment on the Page 2 ad (Nov 19) sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation.

It's important for the public to realize that for the current peace talks to succeed, Israel's concerns must be recognized and addressed. Israel's view of the Palestinian controversy is completely influenced by the fact that there occurred two Arab-launched wars against Israel before the West Bank, Gaza and Golan were captured. Furthermore, were Israel to just give back the West Bank, her complete

East-West border would be just nine miles wide - an area smaller than the width of Toronto! Given the track record of the Arab countries surrounding Israel - can one forget Saddam Hussein's SCUD attacks on Israeli civilians? - I don't blame the Israelis for any toughness on the land question. Considering what's at stake, they just have too much to lose.

Limore Noon

## Zionism part of multiculturalism

Dear Editor,

I am tired of feeling like a persecuted minority within the country of my birth. I am tired of being placed on the defensive because I support Israel and I am proud to be Jewish. I am tired of being forced to play the role of victimizer just to satisfy the demands of those who wish to see a victim. I am not ashamed to call myself a Zionist. The strength of my conviction is derived from my identity as a Canadian.

The values of democracy and freedom that I value in a Canadian context are the same values that force me to identify with the State of Israel. Israel is a democracy and has been such since its inception. Israel has spent its entire history in continuum struggling for its very existence and the right to be recognized. Israel was created as a Jewish homeland by the United Nations and yet that same body refers to Zionism, the national aspirations of the Jewish people, as racism.

I am a Zionist, not a racist. I should not be forced to deny my emotions as a Jew and as a Zionist, nor should I be accused of dual loyalty because of my double allegiances. Any member of any other ethnic identity also shares an affinity with

another land, people and history. Being proud is not being elitist. It is affirming the underlying purpose of developing multicultural society - to preserve a plethora of opinions, attitudes and ideas in order to better enhance the collective whole.

Joey Felson

## Sheuftan leaves bad impression

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my deep dismay, disappointment and

disgust at the lecture presented by Professor Dan Sheuftan on Nov 13, and sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation. In his lecture, the Professor was promoting discrimination and hatred towards an entire nation. Remarks such as "All Arabs are violent" and "Arabs want to poison baby Jews" are not only unfounded and paint a distorted image that is far, far from reality, they are basically a destructive lie seeking to inflame emotions of blind hatred and unsubstantiated bigotry.

It is a painful paradox that at a time when the peace process is being vigorously pursued by all the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict, a York University club (the J.S.F.) hosts a professor who is not

only a radical in that he ultimately refuses to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People to self-determination, but a racist in that he succeeded in his pledge to dehumanize an entire nation, the Arab Nation.

As a student, I am entirely convinced that the right education is the most effective instrument in combating ignorance, which in my view is the major cause of racism and discrimination.

I find the Dan Sheuftan lecture as totally unacceptable because it dishonours one of the most fundamental beliefs I have seen raised on, that all people are created equal.


Samer Bawab

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