

## sexism, homophobia, racism run rampant at York

Today is International Women's Day — a day that should be observed seriously at York. One would think that sexism would not be an issue any more at a liberal university such as York, but recent events prove that sexism is still here, along with homophobia and racism.

A fraternity poster currently on the bulletin boards has a picture of a woman in lingerie with her hands over her head, with the much larger naked torso of a man behind her. Superimposed over this image is the word "enough?" and "paradise found" is directly underneath it.

Any first year sociology student would be able to analyze this poster and reach the conclusion that this is a very sexist image. A woman, without the use of her hands, finding paradise in a man's torso? And the fraternities still say they are fighting sexism along with the rest of us.

What is even more disturbing is that a sorority has put its name on this poster along with a fraternity, and that "girls" can get into this party for half the price of "boys." Is this to entice the "girls" to "party enough?" What is enough?

The Greek organizations will, of course, still say they support equal rights and that they promote a healthy attitude towards women.

To extend sexism into other forms of inequality at York, a poster advertising a York International Socialists event called "Gay Liberation and the Politics of Sexuality" was disturbingly defaced with statements like, "Kill all fags," "I hope you all get AIDS" and "You fags destroy society." These and other comments were obviously written by at least three different people because the handwriting changes. And someone took the care to colour it in with yellow and blue marker and blue ink. Sick.

Sexism, homophobia and racism seem to be systemic at York, to the extent that practically all the graffiti in the washrooms is sexist, homophobic or racist. This is the only forum where people can express how they really feel without identifying themselves. The truth comes out.

Fortunately, the Women's Centre has held seminars on how to combat homophobia and racism. We have just had Black History Month and earlier in the year we had AIDS Awareness Week.

But we can have awareness programmes until we're blue in the face. These programmes just preach to the converted. And we don't know what to suggest to open people's minds.

International Women's Day is a small part in the fight against only one type of discrimination. Maybe what both York and the world needs is an International Discrimination Awareness Decade.

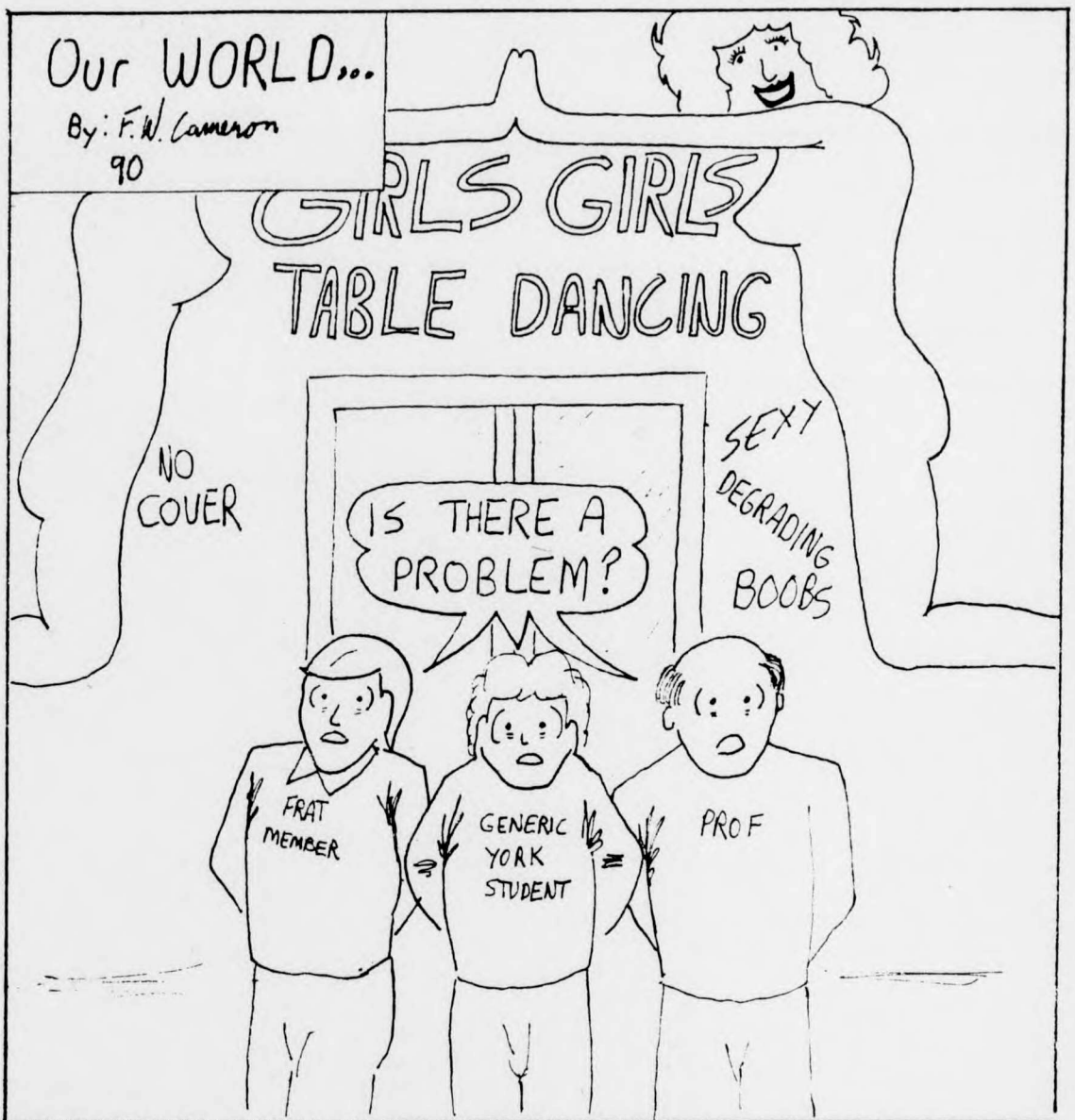
# MEETING TODAY 4 PM

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## letters Popichak apologizes for Arab-Nazi linking

Dear Editor:

Re: Rima Masri and Sawson Farah, "Popichak playing into propaganda" (*Excalibur*, March 1).

My apologies to Masri and Farah who took offence at my apparent linking of Nazi war criminals and Arab extremists when I raised the question of whether York would have still accepted its \$1 million donation from Sasakawa had it come from one of these groups.

The misunderstood intention of my letter was to point out a possible double standard at York — it accepted the Japanese war criminal's donation, but would it have accepted money from someone who had committed similar crimes against the Jewish people, given the strength of the Jewish lobby and influence at York?

In my letter, I reference only Arab "extremists" and not the "whole Arab population" as Masri and Fasah quote. They, and Nazi war criminals, were meant to be two separate examples and not linked. I am against the use of violence for any means and instead of "being ignorant of the Middle East" and "playing into propaganda," Masri and Farah may be surprised to hear that I support the cause for peaceful, independent self-government of the Middle East residents who are now oppressed and forced to live as second-class citizens in territories illegally occupied since the '67 war.

Sincerely yours,  
 Steve Popichak

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, doubled spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

## Donato commends staff for press conference

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank George DiPede, Tina Deluca, Stephen Reid and, most importantly Marshall Golden, for their efforts with the CYSF Press Conference held on Wednesday, February 21. That evening, when Torontonians and Canadians turned on their television sets to approximately seven million people, they were able to hear what students at York University had been complaining about for years (this perspective was heard first before any other college or university).

Budget cuts by the government, coupled with increasing tuition fees, have drastically reduced the quality of education students are receiving for their dollar. The accessibility question is more of a concern now than ever before. So what do we do? Admittedly, I was not able to specifically answer that question when asked that day. Fortunately, mention was made of an upcoming demonstration (something that York students are experienced at)!!!

On Thursday, March 15, a rally is expected to take place downtown in front of Education Minister Sean Conway's office. It is extremely important that York University students are well represented. After all, we have

more to lose than anyone else. Please watch for further details on campus. CYSF is planning to arrange transportation that day, and if anyone would like to help out, please come by our office.

Once again, my thanks to those individuals who helped York play a contributing role in this crucial issue.

Sincerely,  
 Peter Donato  
 President, CYSF

## No cow section upsets reader

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to the lack of a special opinion section for cows. In the past issues of *Excalibur*, you would allow a cow a special section if you found their letters moo-ving, and yet I have not seen this special section. I was glad to see that there were some cow articles in the *Excalibur* but since then there has not been ONE cow article and I'm disappointed to say the least.

I'm desperately hoping that by the end of this year there will be an op-ed section for our dear friend the cow. Please note the lack of a name, address and phone number — after all being attracted to cows is a sensitive issue to say the least but I hope you will take my letter into consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely  
 Spot

Editor's note: The cow was put out to pasture. Please look forward to our upcoming mascot elections.