

Thoughtless quick to mock

The letter is directed to those persons who make judgments, particularly verbal ones, based on superficial observation. In recent weeks I have become the recipient of an increasing number of comments by passers-by about my use of a flashlight on campus at night.

I realize that it must appear odd to see someone using a flashlight between Atkinson and Central Square or Vanier, but I do not suffer from a paranoiac fear of muggers or rapists as some of the comments I receive would suggest. My flashlight is not a defensive weapon; I use it because I am virtually blind without it.

I am guilty myself at times of foot-in-mouth disease. I don't believe that the person who openly expresses amusement at my use of a flashlight would do so if I carried a white cane. Therefore, most of the time this

amusement does not distress me unduly. But if my self-confidence has recently been shaken by tripping over a curb, steps, or other objects outside my range of vision, as sometimes happens since my vision is restricted even in good light, then comments can be painful.

It is difficult to become reconciled to a progressive loss of vision, without the additional burden of feeling oneself an object of amusement or ridicule. There must be other occasions when persons with other types of physical handicap are misjudged if their handicap is not immediately apparent. What appears as odd behaviour may have a very different explanation than the most obvious one.

What I am trying to say is that it behooves all of us to think before we open our mouths in judgment.

C.M. Nichols

STOP!

Today a most remarkable thing happened.

A car stopped for me at a crosswalk. It was most probably an old model car, the type with a brake installed instead of two gas pedals.

Or perhaps the driver was one of those bold young people who had good vision and the courage to take up driving. The blind drivers on the road should take note of this feat.

In any case, I found it quite out of the ordinary and worthy of report. Thank you.

Michael McVey
(pedestrian)



Stereotyping hassle

Last week I found myself in need of a good typewriter. Someone informed me that CYSF had an IBM electric available for student use. On arrival, asking if I could use it, I was motioned to go ahead. But alas, Paul Hayden came out of his office along with David Chodikoff, questioning me as to my origin.

As I indifferently stated that I was of Bethunian breed, they immediately instructed me, that although "nothing personal" was intended, I was not allowed the use of the typewriter since Bethune is not a member of CYSF. With their condolences, the two gentlemen designated me as a "political pawn", and suggested that if I was displeased with this prospect, I ought to verbalize it to the Bethune council.

"Nothing personal" was added once more, as well as the promise that if any problems arose at Bethune, I would allowed the use of the CYSF typewriter.

Finding the Bethune typewriters to be in reasonably decrepit condition, I returned, and, after describing my discovery, was allowed to use CYSF's typewriter. David Chodikoff requested that I make myself heard. I agreed. It was the least I could do in return.

He proceeded to suggest how, and what I ought to write (indeed, there was to be "nothing personal", and I was to remain a "political pawn"). But that's not my style, thus:

Why send people round in circles, only to accept them the second around, wasting all that dear, precious time, when you can get so much more done, so much more quickly, the first time.

If people stopped acting according to grudges, if they backed down, conceded more quickly, we would have a lot more peace in this world, a lot quicker. David and Paul were courteous enough about it, but they exemplify the incessant rigamarole that allots everyone less time to live!

Stephen Lloyd Durbin



Facts on USSR disputed

The letter last week by an unnamed hungerstriker is typical of previous contributions by Zionists — well-meaning but nonetheless unsubstantiated innuendo.

The Soviet Union simply does not solve unemployment by putting 'millions' in prison - there are very few political (and no 'economic') prisoners there. It is over 20 years since the Gulag was disbanded. Furthermore, the S.U. has a pressing labour shortage.

Many people from the West do go to the S.U. to work and study, Moscow is considered the international student capital of the world. With détente, even Canadians are going there to study and work. In fact, the future president of U of Toronto, James Ham spent a year there working and researching.

This is done through international

agreements - open immigration would merely give free reign to the CIA and other Western anti-communist organizations.

The letter employs *ad hominem* arguments, denouncing Brezhnev's supposed car fetish, and asking me what I have done personally for any minority group. Neither my nor Brezhnev's personal life is at stake here. Furthermore, I am not concerned with cars, nor with supporting my arguments with personal testimony.

It is true that militant Zionists are repressed in the S.U., but then Zionism has been denounced even by the United Nations as racism. The unnamed author of the letter is presumably against racism (though he/she mentions only anti-Semitism).

It is unfortunate that the Jewish people are often identified with

Zionism. This can only encourage anti-Semitism.

In the West, we have millions of 'economic' prisoners - prisoners of unemployment, inflation, etc.

As for 'prisoners of conscience', the U.S. and Canada have a notorious history of violations. Presently, the Rev. Benjamin Chavis Jr. and his 9 co-defendants, known as the Wilmington 10, are serving 25 year sentences for their activities in the civil rights movement in North Carolina.

I reiterate from my earlier letter, if these so-called freedom-fighters were really concerned about human rights and racism, they would be kept more than busy worrying about Canada, the U.S., S. Africa, Chile, Argentina, S. Korea, ...

Eric Walberg



Forest fire not out just yet

So now we know. The forest fire has gone out, not with a bang, not even, perhaps, with a whimper.

That is, the administration has issued its edict, to the effect that Dr. Jeffrey Forest is to be re-instated with a reprimand in his file. The fire is not quite out though. Several things remain to be said about the whole incident and about the way in which this university is run. We of the GAA would particularly like to bring these issues to the attention of *Excalibur's* readers.

The administration obviously bowed to the pressure from one of the more visible and vocal groups on campus, the Zionists. In so hastily suspending Dr. Forest in the first place, the administration's reaction was clearly a reaction to emotion rather than reason. Especially in this case, we must remember that it often takes two to start a fight, and the fact that no disciplinary or investigatory action was undertaken vis-à-vis the Zionist group is a disquieting comment on the 'tyranny of the majority'.

There is a recognized and acceptable procedure that the administration can follow in any action to discipline or suspend an employee. That this was not followed in this case, that Dr. Forest was suspended — albeit on full pay — before any verdict had been passed on him, is all too reminiscent of kangaroo court procedures, where one is told that he will be sentenced today and tried tomorrow.

Most disturbing of all, I think, was John Becker's resort to arguments having to do with Dr. Forest's allegedly 'violent nature', as a way of belittling the very real, human and political concerns of Dr. Forest. As of all of us, this approach is both shoddy and insidious; it is also interesting — and distressing — to note that our illustrious BOG members are beginning to raise the same kinds of questions and are wondering whether would-be teachers are 'adequately screened'; small comfort that 'adequate psychological tests' have not been developed — so far.

Tony Woolfson, Chairperson, G.A.A.

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