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## directory

# Letters to the Editor

### Eaton empire

Let me state clearly the purpose of this invective at your article on the Eaton empire:

I disagree with your accusations of Lady Eaton because of her view of Fascism.

In taking this position, I am neither motivated by any love for the Eaton family, nor by the fact that I'm still an Italian citizen, nor by any desire to advertise Fascism. Rather, I felt a compelling urge to expose what I consider a libel and a disservice to the EXCALIBUR readership.

The large-print excerpts from the Eaton impressions and memoirs clearly condemn the poor lady as an enthusiastic supporter of Mussolini and Fascism in Italy. There are no extenuating circumstances:

Italy now happiest land, says Lady Eaton returning, praises Mussolini's Rule.

"Found whole country improved, People happiest in world-Admires Signora Mussolini for her domestic qualities - European Countries unprogressive in caring for sick." Other comments on Mussolini's policies follow, mostly favorable to the Italian dictator.

As an exercise in pure product advertising (naive politics), your article was not too badly presented.

As an effort at social justice, however, much more is needed in its content.

I do not claim to be any better historian than the author on "The Eaton Empire", but, coming from "the other side of the fence", I can assure you that your article's point of view of Fascism is characteristically distorted and one-sided.

Lady Eaton wrote in 1927 of the marvel Mussolini's government had performed in Italy. Where is the flow in this statement? Any Italian old timer will tell you that this is true. The Fascist blunders of 1935-43 had not yet happened and even "liberal" celebrities as Winston Churchill and Leon Blum greeted Mussolini as one of the greatest modern statesmen.

Italy did gain from 1922 to 1935 under Fascism. This is no place to go into further details, but at least from the Italian standpoint, it could not be better.

Thus, I ask: what right has anybody got to use or misuse, a medium such as EXCALIBUR in order to feed false and gratuitous propaganda to students who are only too ready to absorb "ready-made knowledge" in the true North American spirit without questioning its truth?

Is it possible that you are so blind as not to feel the blatant stink of your Puritanical values of self-righteousness in the search for the eternal perfection in European, or better still, Italian politics??

History alters its course capriciously. Why should Lady Eaton or anyone else be blamed for believing in the goodness of a political system that, like any other, collapsed after it reached the zenith of its contribution to mankind?

Let us admit that much of

today's trouble all over the world is due to the tendency of judging yesterday's events by today's standards and values. Everyone is in for the sweet revenge: some against the Germans, others against the Italians, still others against the imperialistic actions of the British, French and what-have-you in the Third World.

Yet, when I ask around for a description of what Fascism stood for, all my fellow students sadly admit that, apart from the usual "liberal" standard cliches (pigs, dictatorship and everything evil ...), they know nothing about it. Ever heard of the ideal Corporate state? Ever heard of the social welfare schemes introduced by Mussolini in Italy and only now slowly being introduced in Canada by our lovely capitalists-liberal governments?

Need I say more to show how unrealistic some of EXCALIBUR's articles are becoming?

Of course, those who consider themselves radicals rarely, if ever, stop and think that, perhaps, if their enemy did not exist, they too would not feel so important. Thus, deep inside, the "radicals" pray for an image, be it Fascism or something else, to continue to scare people. Yes, even the courageous radicals are too afraid to look at history from a contemporary point of view, quivering at the thought of finding out what is behind the devil's mask they flaunt at middle-class students and related proletariat.

How easy it is to condemn! My stand is not for Lady Eaton (for whom I could not care less), but for all those, (mostly fellow students), who have little time and interest to verify the truth of articles such as the one on the Eaton empire in EXCALIBUR.

I have dealt with only one aspect of the article's content, namely, Fascism and Mussolini. I apologize to you, the reader, if this opinion of mine is a bit unorthodox, and hope that I did not leave you with the impression of trying to sell Fascist propaganda, much less Eaton advertising. If I am to be the object of a committee on Un-Canadian activities, so be it! If I am to be labeled a Fascist pig (which, modestly, I admit not to be) let the dogs have their day!

But I shall be grateful to have got this off my mind at 1 am. I can now go to sleep, finally.

Savino Sbarra  
Stong II.

### GSA & CYSF

Two connections with regard to the Graduate Students Association CYSF referendum last year: One, 59 per cent voted to leave CYSF; Two, no letter of the nature you described was received by the board. Unlike McLaughlin's council we believed that our internal decisions were the business of our members; for that reason we sought no press during the referendum. Had we received the same 'offer' from the board, my advice to the GSA Council would have been that we send it back 'D' for political acumen and 'F minus' for governmental responsibility.

The present CYSF constitution, including the withdrawal clause, was approved by two thirds of the constituencies councils. The Board's apparent belief that it knows the needs of students better than they do still surprises me; I was apparently optimistic enough to think that by now they might know better than that.

John Bosley  
Past Chairman  
Graduate Studies  
Association.

### Polonsky

The childish, watery, self-indulgent drivel which for the most part characterizes Naked Came Polonsky prompts me to suggest that the column might be more aptly titled, Polonsky: In Search of His Testicles.

Stevan Jovanovich  
McLaughlin IV

## Vital

## staff

## meeting

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