# LETTERS

threatening power is kept in check,

when they have unlimited power

themselves? I don't have the answer

to that question but I would rather

trust George Bush than Saddam

Hussein. I would rather have the

It is maddening that the anti-war

elements protest our involvement in

the Gulf, but don't protest other

aggressions - like the Soviet

Union's aggression in Lithuania.

They didn't protest when Iran and

Iraq were at war, they didn't protest

when Israel invaded Lebanon - and

My question is why these sup-

posed peace activists were not in the

streets when these aggressive acts

were being carried out? Is it that

Canadian lives are more precious

than Lithuanian lives, Lebanese

lives, Iranian lives, etc? In my book,

all life is equally important and

worth saving, at any cost. These pea-

ceniks must sleep horribly each night

knowing that we share the longest

undefended border in the world with

the "evil empire," the United States

American) people hit the protest

trail, I would like them to remember

the people who gave their lives in

past conflicts so that we could live in

prosperity and security. They pro-

tected our freedoms and rights -

even your right to protest. It is easy

to protest when you are away from

the bullets and the shrapnel. In some

countries, if you protested against

the government, you would be shot

I am confusted at why, when

watching the news telecasts, that the

Iraqi people, parading through the

streets, support Hussein? If my

memory serves me correctly, didn't

Iraq just finish fighting an 8 year war

with Iran? Why would the people

I am confused (and shocked) at

why the coalition attacked so soon

after the Jan. 15 deadline. Ideally, it

would have been desirable if both

sides simultaneously pulled out of

the Gulf, supervised by a UN peace-

keeping force. But this suggestion

reminds me of the old adage "he who

fights and runs away lives to fight

If this showdown didn't happen

want war, destruction, and death?

When the anti-war (anti-

of America.

on the spot.

another day."

the list goes on and on.

U.S. as our neighbour than Iraq.

### cont'd from p. 4

and get some other important YFS?-FEY executives to get back to me.

Why is it that the YFS/FEY had the funds and time to appoint an Equality Commissioner, who will carefully monitor the YFS's activities to make sure that it does not support any groups that engage in homophobic activities or publish homophobic material because as the new commissioner states: "a lot of people don't realize how in depth the issues of sexism, racism, and homophobia are"?

Yet they do not have the funds and the time to support an Anticalender, which would inform the ordinary students which courses are enlightening or difficult. Once again we have a prime example of misdirected initiatives.

Why doesn't the YSF/FEY publish a student directory like other universities have? It would be a great device to bring the York community together instead of fractionalizing it as per usual. If individuals do not want their names or addresses published they could opt out.

Finally, I find Mr. Ghomeshi's challenge for his opponents to run against him repugnant and childish. As the saying goes, if you can't take the heat . . .

Bruce R. Millman

# **Gera** lecture totally biased

#### To the editor.

To the editor

This letter is regarding the January 16 "Special update on the Persian Gulf with Professor Gideon Gera" that was presented by the Jewish Student Federation and the York Political Science Student Association. It was to my surprise to find out that the "lecture" was more about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict than it was about the Gulf Crisis!

Many students were angered to see that the Persian Gulf Update turned into heated arguments between the pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian students which students which drove many students to leave the room, and left the rest confused rather than enlightened.

Mr. Gera refused to link the Persian Gulf Crisis with the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, yet he contradicted himself by giving us a long speech on the history of the conflict with a totally biased view.

His lecture would have been greatly appreciated in Israel to an Israeli audience, not to Canadians in which he should have at least presented both sides of the argument.

Since the Middle East is a very touchy topic here at York, it would be more constructive if both the Jewish Student Federation and the York Arab Student Association would arrange future dialogue and debates on equal terms in order to help find peaceful solutions in that unstable part of the world.

Rima Masri

# Lexicon partisan

#### Dear Editor

I am angry at The Lexicon, with its biased report on the events in the Persian Gulf

Nobody wants a war. There is no justification for any war. But to only single out the Americans as the "evil empire" bent on subjugating the world to its will is totally insane. The Americans are obviously not

without fault in their past and present wordly affairs, but the peace activists and The Lexicon would want us to believe otherwise.

Why isn't Saddam Hussein's aggression never mentioned? It is also crazy to assume that it's a war for the price of oil.

I agree that it is stupid to think that the coalition forces are going into Kuwait to restore democracy. Kuwait has (if I have interpreted the information I have correctly) never had a democratically elected government. So why is there a war in the GUIf? In my humble opinion, it is the threat of letting power go unchecked. If we left Saddam Hussein to his own devices, who knows what would happen?

Some would say that why should America be the "world policeman" and make sure that potentially

Students better off with GST, Wilson says

return for 1990) will be entitled to an

The total GST Credit will be calculated along with the regular income tax return. Whether a student over 18 files an income tax return or not, he or she will be eligible for the credit and should apply. Forms can be obtained at any Revenue Canada office or at many branches of Canada Post. I am often asked why students will be charged GST on their textbooks. Purchases of textbooks by students in a bookstore will be taxable, just as purchases of other books by any other individual will be taxable. This is the simplest, most straighforward way to operate the tax and is consistent with the principle of a broadly-based tax. Don't forget that many students will be eligible for the GST Credit which I just described.

now, what would happen a few years down the road? What if the coalition pulled out of the Gulf and left Iraq in possession of Kuwait? Would there be immediate stability in the region? Would this insure that there would be no future loss of life in the region? This is not a justification of the coalition's actions, just questions from a confused person.

I am afraid that if this war is prolonged and Canada becomes more involved, I may be drafted. I am fearful of attacks on Canadians of Arabic descent by racist elements in our midst. Some of my friends are Arabic and I fear that they may be subjected to racist insults and attacks.

I am afraid that this conflict will turn Arab against Jew in violence. I am afraid that terrorists may cause further loss of life. I am fearful that the government would involve a War Measures Act and attempt to intern aformentioned Arab-Canadians.

As Robert Payne of the Toronto Sun wrote eloquently, "crisis often brings out the worst in us."

> Sincerely, Athol E. Kelly

# Why the increase?

### To the editor

I have just read your Jan. 16 Excalibur.

I wanted to ask what prompted you to start putting the paper out twice a week last year. I find that I read it less now since this decision. I think this is because there are so many of them coming out that it is hard to keep track so I lose interest since I cannot keep up on each edition.

I also feel that from an environmental point of view this was a bad decision since it inevitably takes more paper, energy and other incidental resources to put the paper out more often. Has this increase in publishing been related to some ability to boast better advertising potential to those who advertise in Excalibur and/or are there other reasons?

> Sincerely John R. Ferguson

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#### language instruction in either of Canada's two official languages, whether or not these courses are part to explain how the Goods and Serviof a degree or diploma program. But schools will apply GST on fees for non-credit recreational and personalmajority of goods and services sold interest courses, such as scuba diving and wine tasting, because these are in Canad, it is designed to ensure

additional credit of up to \$100.

that students' costs incurred while receiving an education will not go up when the tax is introduced. In fact, the majority of student will be better off under the GST than they are today under the existing federal sale tax.

I would like to take this opportunity

ces Tax (GST) will affect students.

While the GST will apply to the

Many of the costs of a student's education will be free of GST.

GST will not be charged on fees by publicly-funded colleges and universities for courses leading to diplomas or degrees, including part-time, extension and adult education programs.

Other fees required to qualify for a diploma or degree, or for prerequisite courses to a credit course, will also be free of tax. As a result, GST will not apply to lab courses and mandatory computer courses, or to compulsory student-association and athletic fees.

Some of your readers may be interested to know, too, that there will be no GST charged for courses in private vocational schools, like trade schools and business colleges, if their programs aim to develop occupational skills, and lead to diplomas or certifications similar to those from community colleges.

In addition, GST will not be charged on courses teaching secondalso available from private organizations that must charge the tax.

As I indicated, there will be no GST on basic groceries and school meal plans. For students at a university or college residence, there will be no GST on the food services included in residence fees.

Moreover, off-campus students purchasing meal plans that provide at least 10 meals per week for a month or longer, will not be charged tax. This will also apply to boarding house meals that are included in the rent.

And there will be no GST on residential rents, including university residences and boarding houses.

Let me say again that most students will be better off under the GST than they are now. The GST Credit will protect lower- and modest-income Canadian, including students, with incomes under \$30,000. The GST Credit will be paid in advance by cheque four times a year to eligible families and single adults over the age of 18.

Students who are over 18 years of age will be eligible to receive the basic adult credit of \$190. In addition, students living on their own and earning over \$6,169 (the value of the basic amount on the income tax

However, when educational services provide books to students at no charge, students will not be required to pay tax.

Schools, universities and colleges will pay GST when they purchase books, but are entitled to a special rebate of 67 per cent of the GST they pay related to tax-exempt educational services. The rebate will ensure that universities and schools pay the same amount of the GST as the federal sales tax they must pay today

I hope my remarks will be helpful to your readers.

> Yours sincerely, Michael H. Wilson

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