

LETTERS

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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,

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.

Students better off with GST, Wilson says

To the editor

I would like to take this opportunity to explain how the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will affect students.

While the GST will apply to the majority of goods and services sold in Canada, it is designed to ensure 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.

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 second-

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 Gulf? 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

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 U.S. as our neighbour than Iraq.

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 the list goes on and on.

My question is why these supposed 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 peaceniks must sleep horribly each night knowing that we share the longest undefended border in the world with the "evil empire," the United States of America.

When the anti-war (anti-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 protected 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 on the spot.

I am confused 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 want war, destruction, and death?

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 another day."

If this showdown didn't happen

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 aforementioned 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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Yours sincerely,
Michael H. Wilson