

## LETTERS

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thinking may be in style, but your ideas of "the sex trade" (is there a stock exchange for this sex trade?) is just so much misplaced egalitarianism, and put across in a most self-righteous, unctuous way.

Michael Redhill

## Vecchiarelli responds

Editor:

Re: "Reader blasts Vecchiarelli" (*Excalibur*, October 15). I fully agree (in a different way) with Andrew Kavach's claim: "The suggestion that the USA is as imperialistic as the USSR is nonsense." Anyone with a grain of intelligence, who is uninterested in being a propagandist for either the US or USSR, will know that the scope of US imperial dominance throughout the world is much greater than that of the USSR. This is a fact. Unfortunately, Mr. Kavach ignores the facts and engages, in a more overt way, in exactly that which I found disagreeable in Tracey Reid's article, namely, mindless right-wing rhetoric.

While it is true, as Mr. Kavach asserts, that US dominance has been on the wane, this is merely because the US has been unable to understand the largely independent and nationalistic quality of Third World revolutionary movements which have fought and are still fighting to free themselves from the imperialistic US yoke. The US should learn the lesson that venal, dependent counter-revolutionary goon squads like the contras can never succeed because they lack popular support. Cuba, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Angola, and Chile (before 1973) were not success-

ful in their national aspirations because of Soviet aid but because these countries had independent, national popular movements with a clarity of vision unknown to the Kavachs of this world.

Unable to argue truthfully, Mr. Kavach falls prey to several falsehoods. Is he aware that Soviet mobilization after World War Two was a defensive, even necessary measure considering the fact of the US monopoly of the A-bomb (until the USSR's development of their own A-bomb in 1950)? Furthermore, I never said that "the US government controls the media." While it may not have been clear, I meant that the US media is largely subservient to the objectives of American policy, both domestic and foreign.

Mr. Kavach claims that in my letter I engaged in "anti-American jingoism." Interesting nonsense, since "jingoism" means blustering patriotism and I clearly stated in my earlier letter that "I am not trying to apologize for the Soviet Union." It is Mr. Kavach who is the jingoist, because he twists facts to make the US appear good and the USSR evil. But this is an old trick dating back to Truman, Acheson and McCarthy. Mr. Kavach, do yourself a favour and read carefully Graham Thompson's very informative feature article "The New Red Scare" in *Excalibur*, October 15. Learn the facts before you impute your own sins to others.

Cosmo Vecchiarelli

## Equal time for pro-lifer

Editor:

Re: "Marching for Women's Lives," (*Excalibur*, Oct. 22). I would point out that consistency demands that you carry photographs of future pro-life marches outside the Morgentaler abortuary. After all, half of the unborn lives lost at this "clinic" are female.

—M.M. De Robertis

*Greetings in the name of David Dillard, "ever living, ever fearful, ever sure," on the CYSF Newsbeat, for October 26, 1987.*

After a lengthy and often confusing debate, the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) has passed the tardy 1987-88 budget, without any voting opposition, and without an audit to indicate the state of financial health which the student government presently faces. This year's budget will allow the expenditure of over \$300,000, resulting in a deficit of \$8,300. Finance Director Julie Marchant discarded the deficit by saying that once the Gilmore Report is passed (as yet uncertain) the \$50,000 now held in trust funds will go directly to CYSF. The major concern of the college representatives present was the presentation of the budget without an audit. Dave Hawkins, Founders Representative, said, "It's not fair to ask us to accept the budget without an audit." Hawkins continued that this practice did not display responsible government by the CYSF executive.

Finance Director Marchant cautioned the college representatives that if the budget were not passed now, "would they be willing to take on CYSF's financial responsibilities?" Marchant was referring to the fact that without passing this budget, numerous clubs on campus would not receive their funding, and would probably not survive. Club funding and funding in kind amounts to \$65,600 or 22% of the CYSF budget, and according to Marchant's budget introduction this "illustrates the relative importance of the function clubs and services provide within the CYSF sphere." (CYSF salaries and director's honouraria, at \$85,000, account for 28% of the budget.) Marchant added that "the wisdom

of further delays (in passing the budget) is to be questioned." While this year's budget was delivered in late October, last year's CYSF passed their budget in early September. As well, the CYSF audit dating back to 1984 has been traditionally prepared by mid-June. Marchant and CYSF President Andrew McCreadie assured Council that the administration accountancy firm, Clarkson-Gordon, was looking over CYSF's books and that an audit would be ready "in a minimum of two weeks."

The delays in the preparation of the audit are, according to Marchant, the fault of "slopping book-keeping" by CYSF's Business Manager Alex Gebbie, who, according to Marchant, had "repeatedly missed deadlines and changed figures that had been presented to the auditors." Also, the CYSF's auditing firm, Touche Ross and Co., had changed accountants three times without having consulted with McCreadie or Marchant, said Marchant. Gebbie has tendered his resignation, after Marchant sent him a memo on September 30 explaining hers and McCreadie's dissatisfaction with him. The resignation is effective October 31, 1987.

The issue of club-funding was used as a whipping-boy to bully the college reps into passing the budget. Essentially the clubs were held as hostages, not by the brute force of armed gunmen, but by the equally powerful force of misplaced ideals and inadequate planning. Paul Downes, Winters College rep, explained that, while the executive stressed accountability, they presented a budget for which questions have been unsatisfactorily answered and still reps were expected to pass the budget. He said, "I feel we're being pressured."

Hawkins, of Founders, echoed the same sentiment that "our questions are not being answered." Hawkins' belief that passing the budget without the audit would not be responsible government, was countered by Vanier rep Mark Trumphour. He stated, "I don't think it would be responsible government to hold back money (by not passing the budget)." After considerable debate, the budget finally passed.

Unfortunately, college reps were placed in a precarious position. Either they were forced to condone irresponsible CYSF executive practices by allowing a budget to pass without the prerequisite audit, or they would be subject to the ire of unfunded clubs.

## DID YOU SEE THAT?

□ It was disturbing to see the impatience exhibited by the CYSF executive during the lengthy debate, which ran slightly over two hours. This feeling was echoed by Darren Laval, Vice-President of Athletics for Winters College, who was at the council meeting as a private citizen. Laval directed his comments towards the visible disdain that Dean Furzecott, Internal Affairs Director, had for the duration of the budget debate, saying, "For the money (Furzecott) gets paid, if he can't stay in the meeting to deal away a quarter of a million dollars, (then) he should resign, and let someone who cares do his job." Furzecott was not alone in the impatient hot-seats.

□ CYSF President's salary is \$12,480. The seven directors of CYSF equally split \$17,900 in honouraria.

□ According to the introduction of Marchant's budget, "this budget reflects the executive's conception of CYSF's role," and it is "essentially, a

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