

opinions

To the editors:

Last August, the former O'Brien's Pharmacy became Lawton's Drugs when Mr. Michael O'Brien sold his business to the Sobey Empire. The neighbourhood pharmacy is gone. Now, in its place is a large corporation.

Since this time our lives have been filled with oppressive and hurtful noise from a heat pump/ air conditioner. The kitchen is no longer a place where a family can sit and talk or enjoy a cup of coffee. It is difficult to watch the television in the sitting room. It is worse upstairs where the bedrooms are located and even the bathroom is affected. One cannot open the windows or take a bath without the awful drone. The noise is exacerbated by the tin on the outside wall of the pharmacy. The tin covering cannot be seen from the street side.

The tin is supposed to make the building fire retardant. However, there are many materials which would give this protection. If there was a sincere concern about fire hazard, the oil tank would not have been returned to its former place, which was the original site of the fire.

The noise is also causing physical and psychological stress. Attempts to convey this message to Mr. O'Brien

have been unsuccessful.

The operation of the air conditioner/ heat pump is an insensitive and cruel action. To deprive people, including children, of sleep and their backyard enjoyment is incomprehensible to me. Lawton's continues to participate in this by pretending that there is nothing they can do, since the property is owned by Mr. Michael O'Brien.

Help us regain our peace and health by not shopping at this pharmacy. Lawton's relies on your business, and this is why it was willing to pay such lucrative contracts to Mr. O'Brien to get this location. PLEASE BOYCOTT THIS PHARMACY. This is an environmental issue which is affecting us. The community can give our family a wonderful Christmas present by not spending one cent at Lawton's on Coburg Road. Please help us in this effort.

I am enclosing the following address in the event that you would like to give additional support:

Don Cameron, President
Lawton's
Lake Business Park
Dartmouth, N.S.
B3B 1V5
468-1000

Ann Norton



BLACKS ON BLACK

WE CALL FOR TOLERANCE, ALSO!

This is specifically referring to the "CALL FOR TOLERANCE" letter to the editor which was a response to my opinion article on Malcolm X, Muslims, and the movie about Malcolm. After reading it several times, these three words sum up my reaction: Shame, shame, shame.

First of all, shame on my "critics" for being extremely careless in reading my article. Their misinterpretations led to blatant misrepresentation of the subjects that were at hand. For example, these "critics" stated that I claimed to be speaking for and of my race, which I never did. They also said that I stated Malcolm left the NOI because he felt the organization was racist, which I did not. He left the NOI before coming to his realization that some of the NOI's teachings were "racist". I did refer to the elementary school "education" of both Malcolm and Elijah Muhammad. However, education and what we learn within the confines of public institutions are not at all synonymous, as those two men clearly typified. Never did I say that former convicts were not part of the NOI. I did say the organization was made up of more than just those

convicts. As "educated" students, I would hope that some of us aspire to develop listening skills, which, after reading the response, appear poor.

Secondly, shame on my "critics" for doing little, if any, homework on the NOI and Farrakhan. Their comparison of the NOI to the KKK was nothing more than mischief-making implications that clouded the issues. There are an infinite number of differences between the two, with the most obvious one being the issue of violence. The KKK has a history of violence against others, while the NOI does not. The "genetic superiority" of Blacks belief of Farrakhan was not explained and taken out of context. He simply reaffirms what white scholars themselves have said. Leakey, a white anthropologist, found the oldest bones of man in Africa. Mendel, a white scientist, explained the theory of Black dominant skin and white recessive skin. Other white scholars of genetics have traced the DNA back to the Black women. So when these "critics" speak of "genetic superiority" theories, I wonder if they would refute these white scientists who affirm Farrakhan's belief. He never said that Jews afflict the

Blacks. He said that some hypocritical Jews have a hand in oppressing us. That is not anti-Semitic. I wonder if his critics would likewise accuse feminists who speak of men of being anti-man.

Finally, shame on my "critics" for having that white paternalistic attitude in which they feel they are judge, jury, and executioner over right and wrong. They oppose focusing on past injustices, but one must question whether they would say the same to Jews who remember the holocaust. They said: "life is what you make it". If so, why do people continue to oppose our right to determine our future? Those who criticized my opinion are in no position to determine what is "poorly written" or who has "credibility", considering their numerous errors in attempting to discredit my article. They speak of contradictions, but they are guilty. They speak of hypocrisy, but they are guilty. Tolerance does not mean silence, complacency, or naive acceptance. I am tolerant, but I will NEVER tolerate injustice.

Malik Adams

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