

cont'd from p. 8 Portuguese Studies Programme at Glendon College, with the recommendation that some courses from that programme also be offered at the main York campus. This proposal, presently under study by the administrative and governing bodies of York, has recently been passed by the Faculty Council of Glendon College and will soon be voted upon by the Senate.

In light of the significant size of the Portuguese-Canadian community of Metropolitan Toronto (almost 10% of the population, or approximately 150,000), mindful of this group's status as a relatively recent inclusion into the Canadian ethno-cultural mosaic, and of the youthful profile of its demographic character, the importance of this programme to York University and the community at large cannot be undervalued. To study and understand the Portuguese culture and its influence is to gain a better comprehension of that segment of our society which emigrated or descended from Portuguese origins and consequently, to illuminate an important integrant of our Canadian identity.

I fully support the implementation of this programme and call upon all interested individuals and organizations to petition directly the York University Senate on its behalf. In addition, coverage about the impending programme by *Excalibur* would greatly increase public awareness of the proposal, its details, and allow greater input into the petition procedures.

—Fernando Nunes

## Olmert apologist for Israel: reader

Editor:

In the recent interview of Professor Yosef Olmert the theme that was project was that Israel was the "good guy" and the Arabs were the "bad guys" in the chess game of the Middle East. He referred to Israel as a democracy where people can freely travel. Also, he referred to the terrorists having their own way hence Israel is a victim.

But, like other Israeli apologists, Professor Olmert subterfuges to refer to Israeli acts of terrorism and the continual violation of Palestinian human rights on the West Bank. In a state where they honour

former terrorists as heroes, i.e. Sharon, Begin, Shamir, I find it hypocritical of Professor Olmert to refer to PLO terrorism. I hope Professor Olmert has not forgotten Deir Yassin, the King David Hotel bombing or Sabra and Shatilla. Or how about the Stern Gang and Irgun who were not only the authors of letter bombings in the Middle East but also took credit for the killing of British and Jewish personnel.

How about the constant harassment and torture of Palestinians on the West Bank. The closure of universities and censorship of Palestinian culture. I not only call that human rights violations but also the practice of ethnocide and politicide on the Palestinian people.

Peace in the Middle East must come about. There must be an establishment of a de facto Palestinian homeland on the West Bank hence Arabs and Jews can live in peace and harmony. If Professor Olmert believes in this then I suggest he should not only denounce Palestinian terrorism but also Israeli terrorism. He must become a vocal supporter of Palestinian rights and self-determination just as I am a supporter of Jewish rights in the Soviet Union. As George Bernard Shaw once said, "and so, to the end of history murder shall breed murder, always in the name of the right and honor and peace, until the gods are tired of blood and create a race that can understand."

—Jerry Khouri

## No time for Golden's theatrics

Editor:

Last week's *Excalibur* editorial blames "petty in-house fighting among members of the CYSF" for holding up the new CYSF constitution. The editorial goes on to state "that a great deal of the stalling can be blamed on Reya Ali." This cannot be further from the truth. Reya has done his best to see that the new constitution is implemented before his term ends. Only speaker Marshall Golden has opposed his plans. At the February 26 CYSF meeting, Golden launched a filibuster to avoid a second reading of the constitution. The issue at debate was the constitutionality of the meeting. Golden argued that the requirement that a copy of the constitution be

circulated to each council member at least seven days prior to the meeting had not been met. Because of this, he planned to rule the meeting unconstitutional. However, in response to questioning by Golden, each representative present at the meeting stated that they had had access to a copy of the document at least seven days earlier. There was also unanimous consent that the meeting should be allowed to continue. Despite this response, Golden continued to effectively waste all but two minutes of the allocated time for the meeting. At this point, various council members began to suggest that, in the interest of proceeding with our efforts, a challenge of the chair's ruling may have become necessary. In the past years, Golden has allowed the CYSF to challenge decisions of the speaker. This precedent has been set and followed on numerous occasions. Golden now maintains that he had misinterpreted the constitution when allowing those challenges, and now argues that challenging the council's confidence in the speaker is the only way of overruling him. He told council that he would not allow a challenge of the chair's ruling. As the meeting came to an end, it became painfully obvious that council had had enough of Golden's "impartial intervention" and was preparing to challenge him in a vote of non-confidence. In the interest of keeping his job, Golden waffled on his decision to rule the meeting unconstitutional. He changes his mind only after the time allotted for the meeting had expired. In effect, Golden ruined the council meeting for a principle that he did not uphold.

Perhaps the real reason for Golden's actions lie in the enmity between Golden and Ali. This is the result of a number of incidents. The clash between Ali and Golden has accelerated at an alarming rate and has now begun to hamper council's functioning. If our new constitution is not in place by April 30, next year's council will likely be run according to the dictates of the Provost of the University of Guelph. We have no time for our honorable speaker's theatrics. If, in the future, he feels he has a principle to uphold, we would ask that he stick to it, even if he risks his position in doing so.

—John Christie  
Robert Castle  
S. Antoniani



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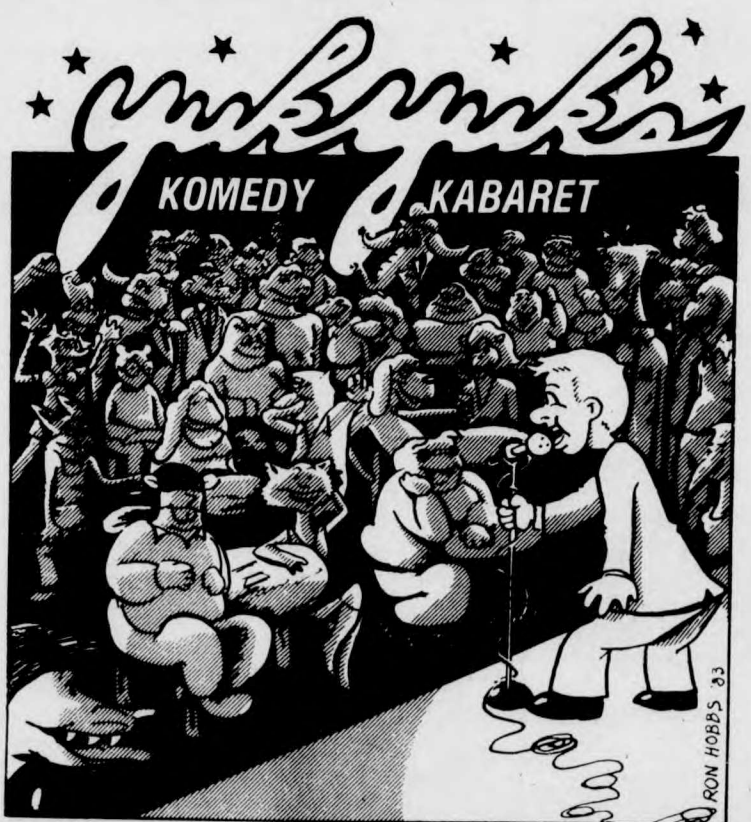


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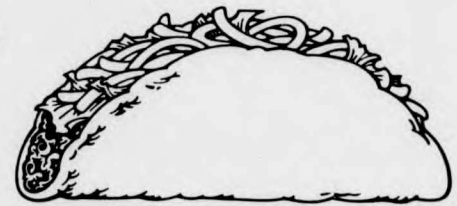
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