

LETTERS

Cont'd from p. 4

Religious Centre's chapel for this event, I needed a few moments of silence to compose my thoughts and myself on such a solemn occasion. I was not alone. Everyone else maintained silence for much the same reasons.

Everybody, that is, except for a very loud CHRY producer who was busy talking (or arguing) with the people in the studio over his headset. This individual was completely oblivious to the packed room around him, who were attempting to concentrate on other things. His insensitivity to the moment was appalling. However, he persisted in continuing this extremely distracting discussion in the chapel in spite of the three or four around him who asked him to keep his voice down.

It didn't end there. When the proceedings were under way and people began to speak out in heartfelt reflection, the CHRY reporter in the back could still be heard making commentary while others were attempting to speak. It's very difficult to speak, much less listen to someone else, when you can hear, "That was an impassioned speech by another student, blah, blah, blah, ..." even when you're sitting up front.

Surely, in such a small venue as the Religious Centre's chapel, they could have monitored the proceedings from outside the chapel — the doors were open so they could have seen any necessary visual cueing, and by wearing the headsets they could have heard the speakers since the majority of them were speaking into CHRY's mike. If they had done that, there certainly would have been less distraction because they would have been further away.

CHRY was insensitive to the feelings of all of us who had come to reflect upon and mourn the victims of a tragic injustice. Their insensitivity was incompetent and extremely unprofessional.

As long as they show this level of incompetence in covering events that require a certain degree of sensitivity, they should be denied access to such events. We had come to mourn, and CHRY had no right to turn it into a circus.

Yours Truly,
Graeme Burk

Promoting vulnerability

To the editor.

This morning (December 6) I woke to the reminder by the radio announcer that a year ago to date a dreadful massacre occurred at école polytechnique in Montréal. It was a painful memory of the violence levelled toward women and amid all this the radio announcer mentioned his name over and over while simultaneously lumping the 14 women into the stereotypical role of victim.

I tried desperately to recall at least one of the women's names but I could not. I could, however, remember his name. I wouldn't realize until later why. Maybe it was the fact that I had a Mass Communications exam today and my mind was focused on problems such as the "symbolic annihilation of women" by the media but this problem became blatantly obvious as the day progressed.

The *Toronto Sun* featured a full colour photo of this monster who spread so much grief and hatred one year ago. *Excalibur* referred to this beast by name but never once mentioned one of the single women, only lumped them (again) as helpless victims. The *Vandoo* dedicated an entire page to this deviant but no mention of the life he so haphazardly plucked from existence. This continued into the evening with similar features

lending negative attention to one man and yet refusing to acknowledge the women except as poor dead women.

Have these women only become important in their deaths? Has this become another chance for the media to promote the vulnerable femme fatale? Why weren't these women glorified in life, as women courageous enough to buck the system by choosing to study in an area once dominated by men? These women were important because of their lives, not their deaths! Damn it, why can't you see what you are doing?

Your lip service to the repression of females is just that. In concentrating on the killer and accentuating the victim you only make other women scared to go against the grain. You enforce the stereotype and give glory to the idiot who "showed those feminists just who's boss!"

I urge you to examine more carefully the things you publish. If you are sincere in your desire to eliminate racism and discrimination you need to re-evaluate some of those inbred stereotypes and toss them out forever.

Sincerely,
Colette Boileau

Acceptable racism

To the editor

In light of the current discussions of institutional and overt racism — I would like to add to the current vocabulary the term: "acceptable racism." What is "acceptable racism?" Well an example will serve best to illustrate the point. Like most members of the York community, I was angered, embarrassed and surprised when I first saw the now infamous cartoon in *Excalibur*.

I was upset that a newspaper from the institution at which I am to be educated had been so blatantly insensitive and outrightly offensive to a minority, which in part, comprises and contributes to this academic enterprise. I was very surprised to realize that the target had been the strongly vocal and supported black community. I was surprised because the media usually ridicules less vocal, less supported minority groups: groups whose ridicule is often accepted, expected and enjoyed.

Racism, like many things, seems dictated by fashion. Today's American comic platform tends to weigh heavily on the use of Saddam Hussein jokes about his possible employment at Seven-11's. How much of this is Western frustration aimed at Hussein's regime and how much of it is an implicit indictment of descendants of the Middle East in general?

There was a time not long ago in Canada and the U.S. that the same feelings erupted into the government sanctioned imprisonment of thousands of Japanese immigrants, whose only crime was their heritage. This unforgivable act was done in the name of "national security" and in the interest of stopping a ruthless regime that had also persecuted a whole race in the name of purification and "national security".

It was widely accepted by media in the West at that time, that Oriental people could be portrayed as emotionless automatons, coke-bottle eyeglass caricatures spouting pigeon English, or soulless sadists who torture indiscriminantly and are justifiable slandered and slain by the brave and noble white-man (usually that most popular of heroic bigots — John Wayne). Today it's done in the name of humor, but its tone seems to hint at the current hostility eschewed by the global trade war.

The most subversive element of

Cont'd on p. 7

Sport

Marriott Cup

1990-91

PMCL

EXCALIBUR SPORTS

Micro-York

BUTTERFIELD & ROBINSON TRAVEL CENTRE

Spirit Challenge

CHRY 105.5 FM

SEE RED AND WIN!!

"DASH FOR CASH"
\$1,000.00

York vs. U of T Basketball

Tuesday, January 15, 1991

Tait McKenzie Gym

Yeowomen 6:00 pm

Yeomen 8:00 pm

Taped coverage by CHCH TV

Sponsored by the Orange Snail, Cock'n'Bull & Grad Lounge

WORDSTAR 6.0

\$99

Requires Academic Identification

Specially Priced For Students, or Faculty Members



High productivity tools help you communicate with more speed, more flexibility, and more impact. No other program puts this power and performance directly beneath your finger tips. With WordStar 6.0 you say it with more impact, finish it faster, and take pride in doing work that looks good as it sounds. Because WordStar lets you access today's most advanced features:

- *Newspaper style columns
- *Windows *Macros *Footnotes, Endnotes
- *Index, Table of contents
- *100,000 Word Spelling corrector with definitions
- *220,000 word Thesaurus with definitions
- *14-function math
- And Many Others

WordStar 6.0 Also Includes

PROFINDER: Complete hard disk organizer and file viewer. (Similar to Norton Commander and Lotus Magellan)

PC OUTLINE: Powerful outlining tool to organize and structure your thoughts into thesis, reports, class notes and projects.

INSET: A full feature drawing program that lets you create and edit from beginning to end. You can edit digitized and scanned images, and incorporate any picture into your WordStar document directly.

STAR EXCHANGE: Convert any document to or from any popular wordprocessing file formats into WordStar 6.0 file format.

TELMERGE: Built-in telecommunication software allowing you to access any information from the university's

COMPUPLACE

3585 Keele St. #12, Downsview, Ont.

(416) 633-8667