

LETTERS

cont'd from p. 4

of Geography Students, the Ecology Club . . . shall I go on?

The message here is action. Without community action and involvement none of these processes could be put into place. Believe that others too, want to solve these many and widespread problems. But it takes action!

You've got the knowledge, you've got the gumption now let's see some of the action. You're welcome to join us at any time, Anita, and together we'll make these things a reality.

Colette Boileau  
Envision York,  
Communications Committee

Glendon play "further assault upon women"; letter

To the editor,

A play which justifies male sexual violence against women was recently staged at the Glendon Theatre on the Glendon College campus of York University

The play, entitled *Women Beware Women* by Howard Barker, was chosen by Professor Don Kugler for production in his drama course ENG/HUMA 3955.08.

This play involves an uncritical portrayal of sexual violence against women. Rape is not only justified by

this play, but it is also portrayed as a route to self-revelation.

There are two rapes in the play, both of them are orchestrated by another woman.

The director's note in the program blames the victim, stating Bianca is as much a collaborator in her exploitation as she is a victim of it . . . The final act of violence [rape] against Bianca is catastrophic not because it is a violation of her self, but because it is self-discovery."

In a social context where sexual violence against women is pervasive

(one in four women has been sexually assaulted) and where male justification for this violence is widespread, we consider the production of this play to be irresponsible.

Notices on the wall by the entrance to the theatre stated that in the tradition of theatre of catastrophe the audience is meant to "go home disturbed or amazed."

Women who have experienced male sexual violence first-hand, or through the supportive work they have done with survivors, are outraged. We feel that this play is a

further assault upon women.

On Friday, March 22, female students and supporters stood quietly by the box office holding signs making statements such as, "My experience of male sexual violence was NOT a voyage to self-discovery."

We do not call for the censoring of this play. Rather, we question whether it was an appropriate play to stage and whether it was produced responsibly.

Individuals involved in its production, most notably Professor Don Kugler and the administrators of Theatre Glendon, appear to be oblivious to this responsibility.

In the very least, we feel that the administration of our college should accept responsibility for ensuring that the climate of violence against women on our campus is not enhanced.

Arguments for the academic freedom of Professor Kugler parallel those used to defend Professor Philip Rushton's racist research at the University of Western Ontario. Professor Kugler's academic freedom must not be allowed to override his responsibility for the effect his production has on the women of this college.

At Glendon, where the student body is approximately 80 per cent female, we demand the right to an education free from sexist harassment.

Glendon Women's Centre  
le Centre de la femme, Glendon

Support for Kim's stance

To the editor,

In response to the two letters which replied to Mr. Kim's, "Why tie abortion rights with peace rally?" I say, it's tough condoning murder on the one hand while condemning it on the other.

Let's face it, the question is not, "Is abortion murder?" No, the question we debate is, "Is abortion a legitimate form of murder which we as a civilized society will endorse?"

We criticize the media for its use of "surgical strikes" instead of "bombing" and "taking out" instead of "obliterating," but for some strange reason we have such a hard time using appropriate words ourselves.

Todd Miller

Kenneth Lindhorst



executives' donations in the amount of \$200 to the "York Coalition for Troops out of the Gulf" and \$300 to the "Toronto Coalition for Troops out of the Gulf" (as reported in the Newsletter February 1991).

Even if we assume for the moment that the Gulf War was one of the "direct" issues listed above, members deserved to be consulted in order to ensure the adaptation of a position that accurately reflected its COLLECTIVE opinion. This could easily have been accomplished by including a few brief questions along with the materials on equality, whose distribution took place just around the time the conflict was developing. Even the cost of mailing individual questionnaires would not have been excessive given the compelling desire the executives felt to establish an official (union) position. Consequently, there can be no excuse or reasonable explanation as to why members weren't officially consulted (a simple "open-door pol-

icy" is inadequate under these circumstances).

The only appropriate remedies that may serve to prevent any further deterioration in CUEW/SCCTE's credibility and reputation as an organization that is responsive and reflective of its members are as follows:

- a) a public apology for its actions (appearing in *Excalibur*).
- b) a return of all CUEW/SCCTE LOCAL 3's contributions to the "York Coalition for Troops out of the Gulf" and the "Toronto Coalition for Troops out of the Gulf," along with a renunciation of any other financial commitments to the Coalition (or any like organization).
- c) an apology to all members whose confidence and trust have been compromised (such apology should appear in the April Newsletters of all Locals).

Writer questions CUEW position on Gulf war.

To the editor,

While my desire in this short letter is not to question either the rationale or justification for the existence of unions, I found that the position taken by the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW/SCCTE) concerning the Gulf War merits critical comment.

Union executives are elected by members and are thereby given a mandate to act on the members' behalf on all issues important to union membership. This mandate includes activities like collective bargaining, as well as other worthy endeavors such as the establishment and maintenance of employment equity and human rights in the work place. Such activities are an intrinsic function of any union and ultimately serve to define and justify its very existence.

The mandate conferred upon the elected representatives should, in the best interest of ALL members, be subject to certain limitations. In other words, the scope of power allotted to the representatives should be confined to those issues (like those mentioned above) that directly affect members. Using dues for any other activity is undemocratic as well as unconscionable.

Sadly, this is exactly what resulted with CUEW/SCCTE's position concerning the conflict in the Gulf (as outlined in "NEWS AT THREE/February 1991"). As one who feels a sense of compassion towards human beings other than just Canadians, I, (along with many other members) was disappointed in the "anti-responsibility" (sanctions will work if you give them time) position the executive adopted. I say "disappointed" because I personally felt that the events that materialized in the Gulf were both necessary and essential to stabilize the region and establish long term peace.

That is my opinion: plain and simple. I fully respect the right of others to voice theirs'. What exasperates me to no end is the executive's arrogance and pretentiousness in either assuming that their feelings on the War reflected the membership as a whole or blatantly disregarding membership input and using their position of power to further their own views. Regardless of which of these two motives the executive had in mind, their actions are disgraceful and amount (as noted above) to a gross overstepping of the mandate they have been given.

I cite, as an example, LOCAL 3

Doulis riposte

To the editor,

In response to Ron Stubbings' letter in *Excal*'s March 20 issue.

Mr. Stubbings questions my journalistic integrity and patronizingly dictates "rules" of journalism because in my editorial, I dared to voice my *personal* (not *Vandoo's*, not "Editor's") opinion about the electoral candidates.

Well Mr. Stubbings, the editorial was never intended to be a serious "article" or journalistic endeavour. The fact is, I publish other people's opinions and letters all the time so

why can't I publish my own? I entitled the editorial "The totally irreverent, biased, and outright nasty voting guide" because it was.

I never mislead anyone to believe that the editorial was serious, I made it perfectly clear that the opinions expressed were my own, so what's the big deal?

By the way, looking at the way the YFS elections turned out, I'm not alone in my opinion.

Sour grapes Ron?

Cassandra Doulis,  
Caviar Socialist Extraordinaire

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