

Letters to the Editor

SPAC chairman blasts student

Sir:
This is in response to the irresponsible, misleading, and predictably unsigned letter which appeared in EXCALIBUR on Nov. 13. The letter implied that the chairman of the Social Psychology Area Committee (myself) refused to grant a request by student representatives (for stationery and secretarial assistance) that was in his power to grant.

In fact, SPAC has no funds of its own so that it and I were in no position to grant such a request. I directed the student rep to relevant sources of possible funds (i.e. ones which do have money) both within and outside the department. The reason for referring him to these sources rather than approaching them on his behalf is my belief that student reps should negotiate with those in power directly rather than through intermediaries.

However, instead of pursuing his constituents' interests, by simply investigating my leads, the student rep needlessly circulated a memo full of dubious claims of faculty insensitivity and dire threats of his own resignation.

SPAC is concerned with communication problems both within

and across its faculty and student constituencies. However, communication is a two-way process. When there are grievances, communication between the parties is not facilitated by trigger-happy, public sensationalism before ordinary approaches have even been tried.

Name not withheld on request.

Paul Kohn
Chairman, SPAC

Post mortem to York moratorium

Sir:
Well, the last signs are coming down and the last placard is stored away. The time for reflection has replaced the frantic work. Despite major problems the protest can be considered a partial success from some aspects.

We proved that student apathy is not a constant by reaching 2000 students. The publicity and program came off after a hopeless start so every student was forced to think about the question.

But there were disturbing problems that I believe are typical of every anti-war action. The committee was hamstrung from the start by underlying factional disputes.

This prevented the development

of a strong central body which would eliminate the headless chaos the action started with. The very narrow base of a dedicated few put too heavy a burden on individuals. Yet these are petty when one examines the political questions raised by Horace Campbell in the Nov. 13 EXCALIBUR "Perhaps it's because Vietnam is now hip."

This theme is key to the left and must be dealt with seriously. Unfortunately Horace exaggerates with an unfair attempt to slander the moratorium with co-operating and aiding the pro-war establishment.

It's good that a majority oppose the war - no matter what the reason. Our first task is to end the war and only mass numbers can accomplish that. The first task of revolutionaries in Canada is to work for an anti-imperialist consciousness WITHIN the single-issue movement. Horace talked about the opportunist nature of the moratorium but to say:

"The brave people of Vietnam can handle themselves" implies we are free to use their struggle to radicalize the West. I refer you to an article in a previous issue of Ramparts addressed to the U.S. left by delegates from North Vietnam entitled "Where are you now that we really need you?"

We cannot make a weapon of the war and sabotage the liberation struggle in the process: We need the broad masses, the millions marching to shake Nixon. At the same time we have confidence in the Vietnamese to win their just struggle.

But Horace is right on when he talks about the mealy-mouthed liberal types that dominated the meetings, void of political truths, void even of hard factual evidence. I'm afraid the audience left the teach-in on the same political level they went with.

I assure you that more than one of the committee is against exploitation of any peoples by any capitalist power but we are the minority. Those who did consistent work were mostly liberals, but committed. The YSM was less active than the progressive Students for Israel and generally discredited itself as bankrupt and too superior to associate with mere liberals on anti-war work.

You're wrong, the war isn't "hip" enough for the left! This elitist attitude results in a mania for an increasingly "pure program" which ultimately isolates a tiny group and degenerates into sectarianism.

I think the radicals at York should move very fast to see the

liberals do not monopolize the moratorium here."

I agree Horace, but how? By day to day work, including the shit work, by getting involved immediately or initiating single issue actions and motivating the radical approach at every decision-making meeting; not being forced to speak off the program against a stacked program. That only alienates all but the already receptive few. Both the radicals and the committee failed us.

Ron Rosenthal

Member of the York Moratorium Committee

Athletic apathy at York knocked

Sir:
This year at York University there are at least two teams which should or could achieve national prominence. To develop good intercollegiate teams a university must have the backing of both faculty and students. From the many football, hockey, and basketball games I have seen or taken part in I find an evident lack of support.

The most obvious person that one might expect at a game would be the head of the physical education department. The person who occupies this position is Bryce Taylor. I'm sure many of the student athletes let alone students haven't heard his name or knew of his existence, in fact, most students think that Nobby Wirkowski occupies this position. He has been what one might call the "Phantom" as he has never been seen at an athletic encounter except for cross country meets which he humbly coaches.

As far as I can see only two faculty members attend athletic events or make it known that they attend. They are Nobby Wirkowski and Larry Nancekivell of the phys. ed. department. Surely more could come out. The professors' job as I see it should be total involvement with the university; why not come out and help you "boys" on to victory and in turn bring national prominence to this young school.

Students also are to blame. Usually the cry is that York always loses, but look around this year. At the time of this writing the York Varsity hockey and basketball teams have won 7 lost 1 and have beaten such teams as McMaster, Windsor and Guelph, to name but a few. At this time you can jump on the bandwagon and help your varsity clubs enjoy a great season.

In fact, the way the Leafs are going, you're liable to see a better game at York. So come on out Bryce Taylor, faculty and students to see York win their next intercollegiate game.

Stan LeMan
Osgoode

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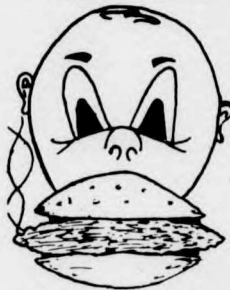
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