

Letters to the Editor

Address letters to the Editor, EXCALIBUR, York University. Those typed (double-spaced) are appreciated. Letters must be signed for legal reasons. A pseudonym will be used if you have a good reason.

Campbell is clearly grabbing at straws

Sir:
This letter is in protest to the rather damaging and wholly unjust review of Kumquat, written by a man who is clearly grabbing at short straws to find what he refers to as, "the humiliation of the Black people of the York community." In this inadequate and irrelevant flow of verbal trash, Horace Campbell reiterates his woes, as he has done time immemorial, on the 'thumbknuckling' to which the whites have subjected the Negroes here at the university. Again he has proved that he is totally one-sided in his fight for integration, when he speaks of Kumquat in such derogatory and profane terms and has the audacity to call the one Negro fellow in the show, "used, had and taken," by what he strongly implies are subversive, obviously anti-Negro minds.

I submit that once again Mr. Campbell is very wrong in his blatant criticism, and that he should retract some of his statements until he discovers what the show was intended to be, and how the normal audience, a student audience, interpreted it, and not what his clearly over-radical mind thought that it was saying. He has gone immensely overboard in this racist-based condemnation of a show that stood for nothing more than good fun; yes fun; and relaxation for everyone who had the pleasure of seeing it.

In his criticism, Mr. Campbell sermonizes rather prolifically on the Ku-Klux Klan episode, and then asks us if we know what the Klan stands for. Of course we know what it stands for, and very few people at York could ever think of backing its endeavors, or even sympathizing with its cause. This skit was, and I am sorry to disappoint you, quite harmless and without any clear-cut racial overtones; it takes a person scouring for this to find it. It was intended as a farce, as I see it, on the fashion world, which, in some minds, has been blown as much out of proportion as has the Negro problem here at York been in Mr. Campbell's mind. What is more, I commend the Negro who took part in this show for his lack of racial bias. It seems he has more desire to live and co-exist in this community, where he is most welcome, than does Mr. Campbell; if, in fact, he really does mean everything he says in their review.

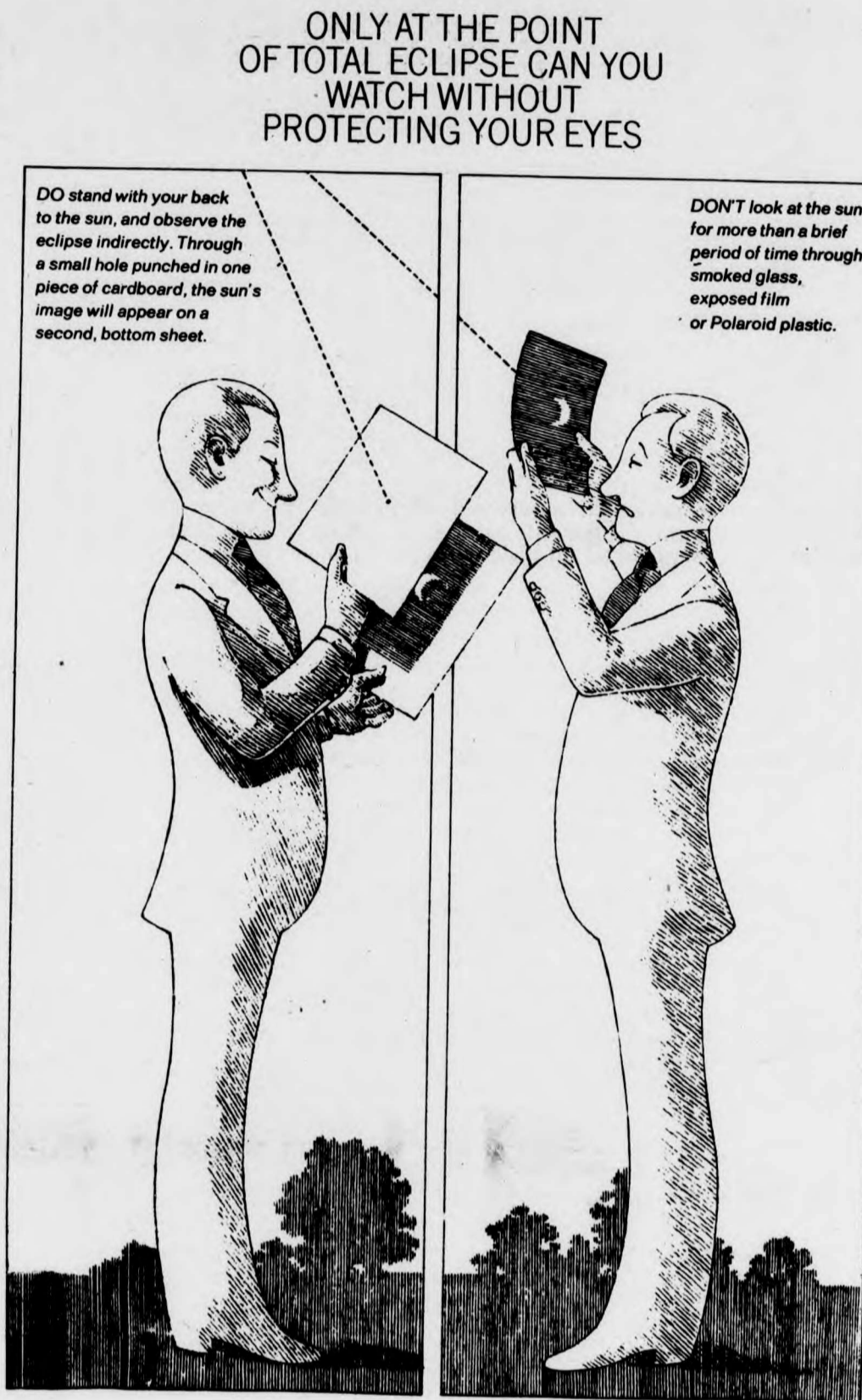
Therefore, I suggest that in the future, when he views a production of this kind, which was obviously light entertainment, Mr. Campbell think long and hard about his statements, before he unjustly accuses innocent people of being "white racists," the very thing I think which was farthest from their minds as they prepared for this production.

Bryan L. Flack

Quality of education counts; not nationality

Sir:
The recent concern by some students and faculty in Canada with the nationality of individuals teaching courses in Canadian universities rather than with the quality of the educational experience is reminiscent of the Nazis who believed that only the members of the "superior race" were capable of meeting the needs of their society. Such a concern with irrelevant aspects of the educational process may lead to persecutions, book burnings, and various other negative events (such as occurred with the Nazis) and ultimately cause irreparable damage to the Canadian educational system. Any educational system that suggests that members of one nationality, ethnic group, race, or religious group are the only capable educators is dooming itself to educational mediocrity. Any nation that today has an educational system of high quality, such as the USA and Canada, would not have attained that quality if restrictions on nationality were imposed years ago. Many "foreigners" have contributed to the quality of education in Canada and in the USA.

If one is seriously concerned with the quality of education in Canada, he attempts to hire the most capable people to staff the universities. To have limited positions to one national group, Canadians, in the recent period of "instant" universities would have doomed higher education in Canada to a level of mediocrity from which it might recover only after many years. There just were not enough



qualified Canadians to staff these "instant" universities. The students who are complaining so stridently about control of education by "outsiders" are the very ones who would have been hurt most if a "one nationality" criterion were used in the early days of the "instant" university.

There may be some courses such as Canadian history, Canadian political systems etc., which are best handled by Canadians. However, to suggest that a Canadian is the best qualified to teach mathematics, chemistry, physics, psychology, biology, and numerous other subjects within Canadian institutions is sheer idiocy. The most important criteria are those relating to scholarship rather than to nationalities.

The concern with whether the books used are written by American, Canadians, or other nationalities, is likewise irrelevant. In the courses I teach which utilize specific books (advanced statistics, molecular psychobiology), there is not a single book written by a Canadian which is suitable for the subject matter of concern. For Molecular Psychobiology, there are only about a dozen books which have been written on this subject, four of which are my own; there is not a single one written by a Canadian, nor do I know of any Canadian who is, or is thinking of, writing one. It is important for Canadian students to recognize that the number of books written by Canadians over all subjects is much less than the number written by members of other national groups.

While on the subject of quality of education, I would like to point out that the professor is not the only individual involved in the learning process. This process involves an interaction between professors and students. Students with positive attitudes toward education, i.e., eager and seeking to learn, contribute greatly to the quality of a university. Many students are passive in the learning process and "expect to be taught"; these

latter students tend to partake of little from university learning experiences, no matter what the composition of the university may be.

In conclusion, it is important to realize that both professors and students have a responsibility in attaining the goals of the university to provide suitable conditions for both to develop and mature within learning experiences; to focus on irrelevant features such as nationality of professors and authors is to build "straw man" issues which will divert the main energies of the university participants from more important and constructive tasks which require our attention.

John Gaito
Psychology

Support your local feminist

Sir:
Brother males! Support your local feminist. In her victory lies our liberation. No longer will we ALONE have to be coal miners, firefighters, slaughterhouse workers, steelworkers, sewage workers, garbage collectors, seamen or any of a hundred others.

No longer will women collect 80 per cent of the life insurance, 63 per cent of the inheritances. No longer will they between 55 and 60 per cent of savings accounts.

In their victory for equality lies our equality and justice. Male discrimination will end when women are no longer discriminated.

Is it fair that they live five years longer than we? Is it fair that they are less likely to wind up in jail or insane asylums or in debt? Is it fair that we are four times as likely to be killed by an accident and three times as likely to be killed by someone else? Is it fair that law courts are more tolerant toward women?

Brother males! Fail feminism. In their triumph lies our equality.

Asides: If women — in wedlock — are tired of being sex objects, I'm sure their husbands would not resist accepting that role. If women — in wedlock — are tired of wearing bras, I'm sure their men would not object to their discontinuance.

I thank God that He used only one rib.

Peter Sobol,
Vanier III,
636-0849

Winters' Forsyth blasts Polonsky on Boobs

Sir:
I am not sure whether or not it is worth my time to reply to Mr. Polonsky's article "Boobs and Discrimination", which appeared in the Feb. 26 EXCALIBUR. The article was clearly a self-aggrandizing pitch for Mr. Polonsky — how else should he explain three blatant distortions and misrepresentations? But, as misconceptions may arise from Mr. Polonsky's bullshit, I will bring myself down to his ridiculous level to straighten the matter out.

First, Winters College Council did not give unanimous approval to the topless waitress idea. The topic was casually introduced and casually dismissed, with the idea in mind that the policy would be worked out in the social affairs department, not at a meeting of council. No vote was taken, no consensus was reached. Mr. Polonsky, you have presented a blatant lie for purposes of sensationalism.

Second, Mr. Polonsky, you made a flippant remark about the pool table, and how a reform council should not take up its time with such trivial matters. Well, Joe, it just so happens that we were being threatened with a petition signed by some very angry Winters students demanding that our pool room be opened. I do not deem the pool table to be a priority. But, I am not the council and I am not the voice of student opinion. Council reflects student wants, petty as they may seem to high and mighty Mr. Polonsky, and the pool table was one of their wants.

Third, Mr. Polonsky, are you aware that the topless idea has been pushed aside, before your article even appeared? Your article was a waste of space. The plan has been scrapped. Are you not a Winters' representative, Joe?

Now that I have made my three points and checked off Mr. Polonsky's article for what it really was, bullshit, I shall climb back to the level to which I am accustomed. I find it uncomfortable way down here with Mr. Ponsky.

Bob Forsyth
President
Winters College Council

With Mr. Forsyth's permission I would like to climb up to his level for a few brief sentences, although I must add that he has never possessed a very healthy sense of direction.

In his letter I am accused of lying on the consensus reached over the hiring of the topless waitress for Sandbox. It seemed to me that the casual manner in which the topic was dismissed as unworthy of the council's time indicated a rather blatant consensus on the part of council. Second, this topless idea had not been pushed aside before the article appeared. A final decision — the idea was scrapped — was not made until this past Sunday, four days after EXCALIBUR's publication.

I sincerely hope that this exchange of communications will have no bearing on the relationship between the Winters College Council and the CYSF on which I happen to be a Winters rep. — Joe Polonsky.

Reader supports Hoffman in sentencing of the "7"

Sir:
Your cartoon in the Feb. 26 edition of EXCALIBUR was quite amusing. However, I think that the word "REALITY" was misplaced. (The word "REALITY" was placed next to the "Chicago 7") These people being convicted for what they did and going to prison for their wrong-doings is in fact a reality! Judge J. Hoffman is in fact the reality, and any other people that follow the "7's" footsteps will also soon be face to face with reality!

Irwin Diamond,
Vanier III