

editorial

The CBC is the only place where the milk rises to the top.

—Larry Zolf

Racial cancer

The cancer of racial hatred is alive and well in multi-cultural Ontario.

Under the pretence of legitimate political organizations, extreme right fringe groups like John Ross Taylor and the Western Guard Party prey on liberal ideas about freedom of speech and twist them to their own purposes.

It is not a great leap to conclude that opinions like those presented by Taylor in his party literature are at least partly responsible for the spread of racial violence. Nor is it unfair to say that groups like the Western Guard actively support such actions.

Freedom of speech has always been a touchy subject in any democratic society. Obviously, undue censorship of political and philosophical beliefs can lead to serious social evils.

But although we must maintain our natural concern for constitutional privileges, we cannot not let those privileges overshadow larger considerations.

The courts are unclear on whether or not the Western Guard Party's literature incites racial hatred. But if such neo-Nazi ranting as the Western Guard offers in its assorted pamphlets is not legally "hate literature," it is by any definition hateful literature. And we feel it has the potential to foster the growth of racial violence.

Freedom of speech is a guaranteed constitutional right for responsible, rational individuals; it is *not* a license to spout immoral—indeed inhuman—rubbish on the rest of the community. Freedom of speech ends when incitement of violence begins.

Some critics would argue that printing anything at all on groups like the Western Guard only aids the cause of such groups. They might argue that by presenting the message of a John Ross Taylor in any form, the message of hate is only being relayed.

But any intelligent reader can see that Taylor hangs himself. His views are preposterous, nonsensical, and potentially dangerous, and *Excalibur* recognizes them as such.

Ignorance, however, is the breeding ground of racism, and when racism seeps out of the cracks in the backroom, it is vital, we feel, to recognize it.

Forewarned is forearmed, the saying goes. Consider yourself warned.



letters

Missed the point

Editor:

The pen is mightier than the sword, but *Excalibur* has entirely missed the point. If you represent the print medium that is supposed to inform the York community of all campus news and events, then you are not fulfilling your mandate.

On October 22, Radio York hosted "On-Air," a one day conference on the broadcast arts. The intention was to educate students in the field of broadcasting, while exposing the wide range of career opportunities available in the professional media. Guest speakers, including Lloyd Robertson of CTV, Tom Rivers of CFTR and Dick Smyth of CHUM and CITY. These and many more professionals took the time to come up to the university to share their experience and expertise with the students. But it apparently was of no interest to *Excalibur* to report on this event. Had you been unaware of the conference, it would have been Radio York's omission. But after I had been assured that an *Excalibur* reporter would be present, I cannot accept any excuses.

In your editorial of September 29th entitled "Who Cares?," you offered the point, "people have the choice to participate or vegetate." This clearly puts you, the staff of *Excalibur* on the spot. Hopefully, in the near future you will instead be on the spot, reporting.

Jack Cales
Station Manager
Radio York

Response needed

Editor:

Sean McKenna's letter, or should I say unsubstantiated ranting and raving (*Excalibur*, 27 October 1983), simply begged a response. He was commenting about the views of Alix Dobkin ("Sexism and violence pervade music business," *Excalibur*, 20 October 1983). Mr. McKenna should rid himself of his paranoid, self-righteous views and accomplish something constructive and realistic.

The real issue he is evading is sexism and sexual stereotypes perpetuated by the music business, and for that matter, most of the mass media. It is imperative that we do examine images put forth in the media so we can identify the problems and change them. One can hardly deny

these images exist, and are dangerous. Our society designed by males and for males must be changed for the benefit of all humans. Identifying the problem areas partially involves an examination of the symbolism used in the music business as an indicator of prevailing conscious and unconscious attitudes.

—Don Sinclair

Invasion reason

Editor:

I have heard a reason for the invasion of Grenada which, if true, makes a great deal of sense.

The Cubans in Grenada have been building a 10,000 foot long runway, supposedly for tourist flights to a country that doesn't have enough hotel rooms for a 747 load and recently vetoed a Canadian company's plan to build a hotel. It is long enough for the biggest Russian transport planes. These planes are capable of transporting nuclear tipped missiles such as the SS-20.

Moscow has promised to increase the threat to the United States if the Pershing missiles are installed in Europe to counter the SS-20 missiles the Russians have there. Western hemisphere missiles are desired by the Russians since there are questions about over the pole accuracy. Accuracy is not much of a problem when the target is a city but it is critical when you are trying a counter-missile preemptive strike against hardened silos. The Cuban missile crisis reportedly ended with an agreement that the Russians would not place any nuclear weapons in Cuba if the United States removed theirs from Turkey, which they did shortly after.

The population of Grenada is only 110,000. There are only 30 Russian advisors and about 600 Cubans, yet this requires the presence of a four-star Russian general who was in Cuba at the time of the missile crisis.

Prime Minister Bishop was reported to be becoming more moderate. He was overthrown by a more socialist colleague and the Moscow-trained army.

The obvious conclusion is that Russia was planning to install in Grenada nuclear armed missiles which could reach North America and the sea lanes leading to Europe.

Unlike Canada, Grenada has a minimal industrial capacity and would not normally be a target in a nuclear war. If missiles were based there however it would become a primary target. If Mr. Bishop did not want his country to be a

target and vetoed the missile plan this would explain why he was overthrown. Russian denials of this would follow whether or not it was the truth.

The invasion, besides giving the people a choice of government may also prevent some missiles from being targeted on North America, lessen the chance of a Russian first strike and keep Grenada off the nuclear hit list. Remember this when the Russians speak of American imperialism.

—D. Pengelly

Bad comment

Editor:

The editorial and the letter to the editor by Berel Wetstein (*Excalibur*, 20 October 1983) do a great disservice to all athletes of York University, in that they are quick to "dump on" people who have put in a great deal of time, effort, and dedication to their particular sport.

Wetstein's logic is quite puzzling as he does not produce any empirical evidence to show that York's football program will not improve. He then goes on to blame York's lack of success on Dave Pickett, and ultimately rests the blame of York's lack of success on an inanimate object—a stadium. Wetstein's logic would lead one to believe that a "stadium" is the answer to York producing a winning team.

When a team works together and functions not only as a unit, but also as individual players when the need arises, then a winning football team, or any other team will come about.

As far as *Excalibur's* editorial statement, I feel that *Excalibur* should look into its own past imperfection of trying to hide garbage under the guise of the York University Community Newspaper. It was not so long ago that Mr. Wetstein wrote for *Excalibur* in the days when it could easily be recognized as *Localibur*. It is a shame to see that things have not changed.

Finally, I do not begrudge any person offering constructive criticism or opinion. But do not be so hasty to criticize the Varsity athletes of York University until you yourselves have put in the long hours of practice, pain, frustration, and conviction. It is, after all, always easier to be a beer drinking, sausage-chewing armchair critic.

Yours with no regrets

—Pat Legris
Chairperson, Bethune College Council
Manager, York University Fencing Team

excalibur

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