

LETTERS

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environmental concerns are valid, and not unnoticed. The book industry is aware of the environmental concerns regarding the strip-cover process and environmental issues in general.

There is an article on "Greening the Book Industry" in the May 1990 issue of *Quill and Quire* by Gordon Graham. In it, Matthew Sibiga, Penguin Books' hardcover representative for Metro Toronto has called for "an industry-wide effort to rethink this [strip cover] process."

Also, a task force of the Book and Periodical Development Council is examining ways to make the book industry more environmentally friendly.

If you are really concerned about the whole process, I suggest that you come up with **good, solid, economically viable** solutions and submit those to the presidents of various publishers and bookstores. They do, I assure you, want to hear any and all realistic suggestion.

Salman A. Nensi
Chair, Mass Communication
Student Federation

Questioning petition's argument

To the editor,

We are writing in response to the free-form graffiti-cum-petition displayed in Central Square.

We would like to compliment the authors of this "petition" on their imagination, little of which they showed during the actual referendum campaign.

The petition is billed as an "OFS/CFS petition for a new referendum" (presumably the OFS and CFS are sponsoring this petition). It asks potential signers if they are "Angry at ever-increasing tuition fees," and "tired of one-sided referendum campaigns."

What this petition really represents is a retroactive "No" campaign.

People are being told to sign a petition which asks if they oppose tuition increases, then tells them to oppose the referendum results.

Aside from comments such as "Tom Eats Worms" and "What does it all mean?" (among the more enlightened contributions to the petitions) some signatories mistakenly thought they were signing a petition *against* tuition hikes, writing "If us students get hiked any longer we will hike ourselves out of York University," and "It's already enough for foreign students."

The "petition" accuses YSF/-FEY of running a one-sided campaign in favour of OFS/CFS membership. What were YFS/FEY meant to do — run both the Yes and No campaigns? Presumably, then, Jean Ghomeshi should have run a campaign to "Unite and Fight For and Against Student Rights."

There are people who believe in a "non-political" student council. These are the people who think YFS/FEY should not have come out for a Yes in the referendum. But there is nothing "neutral" about being silent while racism and sexism persist on campus.

There is a political character to a student council's silence in the face of rising tuition, cutbacks,

and deteriorating conditions on campus. By doing nothing to prevent rising tuition, some student councils are making a statement about their vision of post-secondary education — i.e., that those who can afford it should have access to it.

The petition also informs students that with \$7, they can buy a Big Mac and some fries, or a pair of undies, or a pack of smokes — implying that students would be further ahead saving their \$7 fee rather than wasting it on student organization.

It is pretty hard to take seriously this concern for students' pocket-books now, *after* the referendum. But if the petition's backers are so worried about this \$7, they should start looking at the *real* wastes of money on the campus — the silver platters for Brian Mulroney's visit.

If the big concern expressed in the "\$7 = Big Mac" equation is *genuine*, then the petition's supporters will no doubt be building future anti-cutback and anti-GST demonstrations.

Or will it be just one more example of sour grapes at the effectiveness of a campaign that strengthens the voice of those

who won't accept being pushed to the margins of political life on campus?

Michelle Robidoux
Martha Kayna-Forstner
International Socialists

Macaroni booster

To the editor,

Re: Alan Grad's letter concerning the "juvenile behaviour" of those York students protesting Brian Mulroney. Grad writes that the protesters should "ask for some honest changes in a manner becoming of the elite of the population (the university student)."

One of the many things being protested, however, was this notion of elitism.

Because of the lack of student funding, those who are able to attend university are becoming an elite based purely on monetary wealth. It would be interesting to see how many of the protesters did not require a part-time job or OSAP in order to attend university.

Grad suggests that an alternative form of protest would be to "... call your MP or hold up signs of protest as he passes by," and adds "the PM can read."

I suggest that the PM can read, but such written forms of protest do not appear to affect his decision to turn Canada into a mirror-image of the United States.

Grad writes that, "The fact that he is the prime minister makes it even worse." Well, if not the PM, then who are we supposed to protest? Mulroney is the elected leader of a democratic country. As

our leader, he is supposed to reflect the desires of the majority, not impose his own American-based ideals upon the people of Canada.

As for Grad's comparison to Oka: macaroni and paper do not cause the physical harm of a rock. For those of you who did protest, "rich" or "poor," I praise you.

Grad call you juvenile, but that is a judgement based on a set of standards which assume that capitalistic rationality is superior to personal emotion.

Paul Tonin



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"He's weird."

(Mitch Blass describes George Sanghera)

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