

Letters To The Editor

Pigs eat at troughs

I am not normally known for writing letters to the editor, but my total disgust for Versafoods' weekend service has forced me to write.

One weekend, I was offered pork three times, and fish twice. Other options included crusty chile and slushy scrambled eggs. The long line-ups, cutlery shortages and delays in food serving have become intolerable. I think it is about time our high priced CYSF president did something for weekend residents. I thought animals, not people, lined up to eat at a trough.

BILL JENKS
RAY TAMULENAS
Stong College

Ski Spree is a rip-off, beware letter warns

Once again I have noticed, with some surprise at their gall, that "Ski Spree" ski charter is advertising their ski specials at this university. This charter is a real rip-off, as I know from experience. The motel that was booked was filthy and cheap; there weren't enough tow tickets for the group; the bus to the slopes failed to appear, and the organizers were the most rude and ignorant people I have ever met.

If you're interested in going on a ski charter, you should check them out with the Better Business Bureau first, and if possible, phone the company and ask for at least three names of people who went last year. Hopefully these simple precautions will save you money in the long run.

SUE JOHNSTON

Book store bites the hand that feeds says student

Last week, after realizing I had purchased the wrong text book from the book store during the first week of school I went back to try to return it. The book cost \$8.75, it was unused, it had been stamped and I still had the bill.

The manager rudely refused a refund, telling me that books could be returned only up until ten days after purchase. He did not have the courtesy to listen to my explanation, but simply walked away. I would have been happy to arrange an exchange for the proper book. I would think that being a university book store it would be more attuned to the needs of the students.

What am I supposed to do with the book now — just let it sit on my shelf? The fact that the manager has a monopoly on text books in this university does not give him a licence to bite the hand that feeds him.

THEO FAIBISH



Trusting student has bike stolen outside pub door

Well, one of those things that you think will never happen to you has just happened to me. Friday, Oct. 12, I was having a good time at the Cock and Bull with a friend when I suddenly noticed that my bicycle had disappeared. I had left it just outside the door, unfortunately (this I can say now) unlocked. Trust is something I had at the time.

If the person who ripped off my bike is reading this (which I doubt — it takes some degree of intelligence to read), then I have only a few things to say to you.

If you can damn well afford to attend York University then you can very well pay for your own bike instead of taking mine, which is my sole means of transportation. I really don't understand your motive for stealing my bike. If you needed a ride home I can dig this. If it was just for something to do, I can dig this too. However, stealing is just a bit too far out.

I really need my bike, man, and I want it back. You will not be losing anything because you didn't have it in the first place. Me, I'm down a bike.

Whoever you are, you know this whole trip is so ironic. If stealing is your bag, what are you doing in school? The two just don't jive in my mind. My name is Douglas and I can be reached at 967-5583. No questions asked.

I seriously doubt if anything will happen. This will be a lesson for me and for everybody else. There is a very weird person amongst us.

The bike is a ten-speed Norstar, bright orange; downturned handlebars with black tape; bottle carrier on handlebars; stirrups on pedals; no fenders; carrier with reflector.

JAMES DOUGLAS SMITH

Lawrence pseudo-sophisticated

When is war rational?

In his Excalibur column Oct. 11, the ethereal Michael Lawrence de-fantasizes himself long enough to attempt to examine critically the Middle-East conflict and the support given Israel by world Jewry.

Lawrence criticizes the supporters of Israel and brands them as blind to the faults of the Israeli government and the merits of the Arab cause. I suggest that before he demands objectivity from these supporters, he realize that Israel is now in a state of war. Is war rational? Is self-preservation irrational? In such a situation there is little time for reflecting on the relative merits of the cause of those who point guns at your head.

In other words, Mr. Lawrence, your arguments may be worth discussion, but at this very moment they are meaningless.

As to those arguments, if all you are trying to express is that one cannot let emotion overcome what is just, then I have no argument with that. But, as I have just stated, this is a great peacetime philosophy in a war-time situation and it doesn't work.

I might also suggest to you that the tone of your arguments indicates an equally emotional, pseudo-sophisticated, bend-over-

backwards to-show-I'm-not-really-Jewish attitude on your part.

You apparently were so outraged at the happenings in Central Square that you rushed to your typewriter to set these people straight. In the process, you have presented simplistic arguments and no historical data to back what prove to be opinions, just opinions.

In your article you refer to the military mentality of looking for any opportunity to use force. I propose that you and your typewriter also rushed to utilize the chance to show that you weren't like those people demonstrating in Central Square. Although you are as Jewish as a circumcision certificate, you were trying to be as Gentile as the next guy. The next time you attempt to assimilate, you'd better ask the non-Jewish world if they want you.

LANNY ABRAMSON
Osgoode 2

Staff meeting
today at 2 p.m.

Arrest story

In the October 18 edition of Excalibur, a short article was published describing my arrest and beating by the police the previous Tuesday on the Densley Ave. picket line at the Artistic Woodwork Co.

Although the article is roughly accurate, I must take exception to the inclusion of a statement of someone who is identified as an observer. This observer claims I "put on quite a show. He stuck out his tongue and made believe he was being choked. He struggled, kicked at the police and resisted arrest."

When I was arrested, I was led away almost off my feet by a Police constable, who held me in a choke hold around my neck. He caught me in mid-breath and didn't loosen his hold, despite gasping pleas to do so, until he had taken me at least 50 feet, and only then at the suggestion of another policeman. A picture of the incident which was published in the Toronto Star that afternoon dispels any notion that I was resisting arrest. The picture shows the constable strangling me and another policeman holding my right hand so that any attempted struggle on my part could easily be countered by breaking my wrist. As for the charge that I stuck my tongue out, well, as anyone who has been severely choked knows, there is no need to stick one's tongue out, its already out.

Later that afternoon I visited a doctor who observed considerable swelling, tenderness and spasms around my neck.

The behaviour of this policeman is hardly the exception at the Artistic Woodwork picket line. It is clearly the rule. Any disbelievers should see for themselves — Artistic Woodwork, Densley Ave., between Eglinton and Lawrence Avenues, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.

PETER DORFMAN
2nd year Arts.

Important points missed in biased negative story

With regard to the article entitled "S.D.S. Charges Racist Policies Being Taught at York." (by Rick Leswick, October 11 issue), it was saddening to read such a negative and biased account of what was discussed at York's first SDS meeting.

I am sure Mr. Leswick was trying to contribute something of value to the students by writing this article. Could he not, however, have devoted just a little space to the important things discussed at the meeting? It seems to me he tried to create a sensationalist article by stating that SDS is "American founded" and that David Jacobs "charged" this or that. Come now, Mr. Leswick.

The important issue is that Students for a Democratic Society cares enough to want to

increase everyone's awareness of the terrible dangers of racism and its horribly destructive consequences. SDS wants to point out that when racist texts are used it is the responsibility of both students and faculty to see they are presented with the proper criticism, so that the cancer of racism is never allowed to run its course through our university.

Next time he writes for Excalibur, perhaps Mr. Leswick will want to keep his mind open before offering his readers any more "impartial" information.

LUIZ ANDREWS

Deadline extension needed to inform illegal immigrants

At midnight October 15 the 60 day grace period for illegal immigrants living in Canada expired. After this grace period such persons will no longer be able to apply for landed immigrant status and will be subject to summary deportation.

We feel that there are still many Americans and other non-immigrants in Canada who would apply but have not been aware of the grace period. Often people living underground are difficult to reach with such information let alone be convinced of government sincerity. Government estimates of illegal immigrants ranged from 50,000 to 200,000; however, fewer than 50,000 came forward to register with immigration officials. We urge the government to extend the immigration grace period so that the many thousands who have yet to register can do so.

Although an extension of the grace period is crucial, it does not fully solve the problems of many potential immigrants. Now that it is again no longer possible to apply for landed immigrant status within Canada but only from the country of one's origin, Canada has been cut off as a place of refuge for persons seeking to escape prosecution and other types of repression due to their opposition to political or military policies in their home countries.

This problem not only concerns Americans who have resisted U.S. policies in Indochina, but also Greeks, Chileans, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Haitians, to name a few, who have opposed oppressive policies in their respective countries. Many such refugees did not come forward during the immigration grace period due to unawareness of the opportunity or for fear of being deported to the jails and stockades of their homelands. An extension could help many of them.

But what about future immigration policies? Will Canada be closed to such people? The solution to this larger problem is the granting of refugee status to persons fleeing political oppression.

THE EDITORS
AMEX-CANADA

Film review superficial

In your October 18 issue you have film reviews of Kamouraska and Between Friends by J.W. Beltrame and Michael Forman respectively. Kamouraska is given a reasonably considered and literate review (some indication of plot, some evaluation) but Between Friends is dismissed in a superficial and reckless fashion.

Mr. Forman's review includes the terms "home-made disappointment," "wish for something meatier than this," "little characterization that the script allows," "inconsistent cinematography," "Shebib has done better stuff," "should be quickly forgotten," "overblown addition".

All these terms are vague, tendentious, unsupported, and inaccurate. Worst of all they indicate an extremely superficial approach to criticism, both unperceptive and uncaring.

It would be really difficult to claim that Shebib has not elicited from his actors, performances of conviction, sympathy, and subtlety. He is genuinely, a good film director. His characterizations ring very true. The dialogues overall, are convincing, idiomatic, terse and effective. Dialogue and acting in the long scene involving the sewing machine and power saw, for example, are extremely effective.

Wherein is the "cinematography inconsistent"? On repeated viewing it impresses strongly as motion picture photography of high standard in composition, picture quali-

ty, and evenness of texture. The landscapes and environment scenes, in fall and winter weather, are first-class and pictorially very strong.

Finally, what "better stuff" has Shebib done, and why should this film "be quickly forgotten"? These comments have nothing to do with criticism, mature judgement, or accurate information. They are a disservice to film-goers and film-makers alike.

JAMES BEVERIDGE
Department of Film

Open Holy Book, the answers you seek are held within

My very dear Frank R.B.,

Man was created for the presence of God. The nearness of God was to be his native atmosphere. It is this that God is willing to vouchsafe to each of us. It is this that God would have us seek. "Ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:12).

Frank, the Holy Book on the Israeli book table in Central Square has all the answers in it. Do you know them? OPEN it, dear child of Jacob, and see what God has to say to you — personally and nationally.

In His most wonderful love,
ALC