

# Editorial

## Holocaust awareness is imperative to combat ignorance and prejudice

"Elie Wiesel has a nightmare. It is that people will forget; that young people will fail to learn to remember. For that reason he cannot stop writing about the Holocaust."

So wrote Judith Miller, a Paris correspondent for the *New York Times*, of this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner in an article titled "Erasing the Past: Europe's Amnesia about the Holocaust."

40 years after the horror of the gas chambers, revisionism has become a new growth industry. Denying the specificity of the Holocaust—diminishing the extent of the Nazi's evil by claiming that Germany's wrongdoing was but a continuation of man's inhumanity to man, comparable to the US dropping an atomic bomb on Japan—has proliferated throughout Western Europe and the United States.

Canada is not immune. In Eckville, Alberta, and in Toronto, there are those who claim the Holocaust was a hoax, that six million Jews were not systematically exterminated along with gypsies, homosexuals and other people considered "sub-human" by the Nazis.

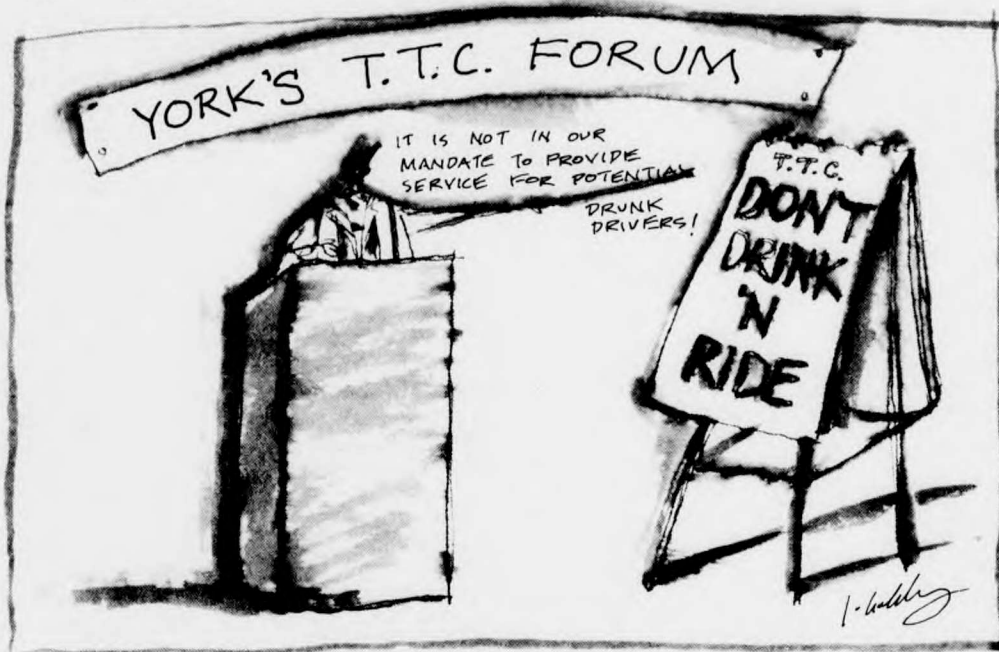
Jim Keegstra, a former high school teacher and mayor, taught his international Jewish conspiracy theories to impressionable students in this small Prairie town. In Toronto, Ernst Zundel writes and distributes pamphlets claiming the Holocaust was the biggest lie of the 20th century, just part of a Zionist-communist plot to control the world.

Last February, following a seven week trial in which he was provided a platform to spout his odious views, Zundel was charged with wilfully publishing "a statement, tale or news that he knows is false and that causes or is likely to cause injury or mischief to a public interest." His sentence: 15 months in jail.

Zundel appealed and two weeks ago, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned his conviction and ordered a new trial. (The Attorney-General's office has yet to decide whether to appeal this ruling and begin a new trial.)

Views such as Zundel's and Keegstra's flourish in a climate of ignorance and prejudice. Just a few decades after the most horrific example of genocide in history, many people have buried their memories and those too young to remember often have little idea of what really happened. Education is the only way to dispel these twin scourges and it is for this reason the Jewish Students' Federation's Holocaust Awareness Week is most welcome.

The facts must be rehashed again; the Holocaust is a lesson for the whole world, not just for the Jews. A combination of hatred and indifference culminated in the deaths of millions. Knowledge of the past is more than essential—it is an obligation that cannot be shirked if future catastrophes are to be avoided. As Judith Miller concluded in her article: "memory's most ardent enemy is silence."



## Letters

### Intramurals helped Founders' rep to get close to college

Editor:

Thank you for a concise article outlining the problems facing the intramural system. I would like to take this opportunity to illustrate what Recreation York's intramural program has done for me.

In my first year at York I signed up to play football and basketball not knowing what playing for a College really meant. At that time I knew nothing about the College system or what it had to offer. I was a commuter. Participating in these sports helped me make a lot of friends in the Residence and broke what was, for me, the truly monotonous routine of going to class, then home, every day.

In my second year I was in Residence and got much closer to my College as my sports activities expanded into other aspects of College life.

Now, in my third year I, along with my female counterpart, run the Athletic Program at Founders College.

I am sure that mine is not the only case where recreational athletics has provided the much-needed interaction between commuter and residence students.

The Intramural Program is needed. I will do all I can to guarantee that future York Students will have the same opportunity I did to have a well-rounded University experience.

—Duncan S. Rowe  
Male Athletics Representative  
Founders College

### Cost effective plan for York athletics found to be absurd

Editor:

In response to the article on the increase of intramural fees (Jan. 29), I must say that I, as the female athletic's representative from Vanier College, am behind Denise Christie.

After having been informed by her as to the progression of our (the student's) possible cost effective athletic's program, I realized that this matter could be more serious than a student would think.

The whole idea of having a cost effective sports program is absurd! The students enjoy joining teams such as volleyball, hockey, squash and broomball. It gives them a chance to meet new people and relax while getting some sort of physical activity to keep in shape.

If this cost effective program is

put into action by the physical education department, I can guarantee that Vanier College will not have an intra-mural athletic's program next year. We will not be able to participate in Recreation York.

I would like everyone, especially students who play intra-mural sports to remember the date, March 18, and to participate in "Hands Around Tait." We have to show the physical education department what we think of their idea of placing the sports program under a cost effective budget. If we don't, they will enforce the budget without any knowledge of student's opinions on the matter.

—Krista Johnston  
Female Athletic's Rep.  
Vanier College

### Calumet Cougars thank Excalibur for sports coverage

Editor:

We wish to thank the *Excalibur* for its excellent intramural roundup that was available in the sports section almost weekly. It was especially concise in its hockey standings, and this helped us very much. We were able to maintain people's interest within our own college about the team, and this helped bring supporters to the games. In fact, during our three game playoff against Bethune, each of our games were witnessed by supporters that numbered well into the triple figures. Even Varsity cannot sometimes put that many into the Ice Palace. It's nice to see that at least one college does not suffer from the apathy prevalent on campus.

Once again, we thank *Excal* and our own boisterous supporters.

—Calumet Cougars Torch Hockey Club

### Library rules are example of mindset of administration

Editor:

There must be something wrong with the Administration of this academic institution.

Let's look at how the library is run. Everyone knows that without books, students can't do their work. If they don't do their work, there is no University.

How can the Administration institute a law that empowers the library to re-call a book from a student-borrower, before the expiry date?

We have to recognise the status of the student in an academic institution, like ours. It is, the students who pay for books, the maintenance of university departments, and overall

status of the University. Not University overlords.

Did you know that faculty (Professors, etc.) enjoy precedence over students in borrowing books, and yet they don't pay for these books?

—Kateba-Mushanga

### ICAC President sheds more light on intramural situation

Editor:

To complement your editorial of last issue re: Intramural Fees, I thought some further information may be of benefit to the 4000 yearly participants of York's Intramurals.

Entry fees for the year '85-'86 were about \$750 for a full complement of teams for one college for the year. They were charged on just a few events where costs were abnormally high; ice hockey, curling and golf. In '86-'87 entry fees were charged on ALL sports so that for the same amount of teams entry costs are now about \$2,300 per college. This is a \$1500 increase.

For 19 years, Intramurals had entry fees that were either low-cost to users or paid for by operational subsidies derived from student activity fees. But in recent years this subsidy has been woefully inadequate, such that a deficit has been created and has entailed a further need for funds. The department feels the source of this funding should be student government.

We recently learned in a meeting with Recreation York they would have to triple most entry fees (only men's Hockey would not be tripled but instead doubled to \$1050) to make up for the deficit and maintain the program at its present level. This entails entry fees for one year at \$6000-\$7000 per college for a full complement of teams. In a meeting with Dr. Roger Seaman, vice-chairman of Physical Education, he said that Recreation is very worthwhile and he would like to see an increase in funding to that area, but he also said that he could not see this forthcoming due to the demands within the department for funds. That is why my organization is pessimistic, and expect this tripling of fees to become policy very soon.

I have already heard from student officials that some organizations will not be able to participate if fees go up. These are Osgoode, Calumet, and Vanier Colleges, and the Business School. Other colleges are reviewing the situation. I fear that students will have to be hit a third time to make participation affordable; right out of their pockets.

The introduction of across the board user fees is a direct product of the low priority recreation has in

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## excalibur

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