

LETTERS

cont'd from p.4

and Gershman were elected. Perhaps this seems like a small point to you, but in light of our belief in Nikki and our friendship with her, we feel that this omission cannot be overlooked.

Elissa Horscroft
Rob Centa

Brail defense "abhorrent"

To the editor,

The last thing I would call Leslie Brail is an optimist. Her/his self-important pedantic letter on language and linguistics reeks of charlatanism: in her/his assault on the "nonsensical" use of the term racism which is supposedly evident in Goldberg's writing and the YFS's (not "Jean Ghomeshi and his apostles") anti-racism campaign, s/he neglects to share her/his definition with us. There mere fact that s/he "fails to see or hear racism in the current course content" reveals why. S/he hasn't a clue.

Her/his defense of the administration's lack in providing a breadth of cross-racial/ethnic content is abhorrent: the courses this and other universities offer rarely reflect the demand but rather a eurocentric patriarchal view of what constitutes a valuable education.

Although there is an overwhelming need for a broader spectrum of courses offered at York, changes could and should begin with existing courses by permitting the content to reflect the realities of literature, of language, of history, of psychology and of philosophy. Question why you are reading what you are reading. Ask yourself why Norton prints new editions of its anthologies.

Leslie Brail implores us to "come to terms with [our] own lack of understanding" and yet has the audacity to inform us that if we don't like it we should go to UofT. Advice like hers/his we can all do without. Many of us are well-aware of the issues s/he attempts to address, and too many of us are the victims of the ignorant and self-righteous attitudes which exist in the university environment.

The editor of *Excalibur* need not

remind us by printing a letter which maybe he hopes will act as a defence against the recent accusations he has had to face.

Sincerely,
Elise Chenier

We're trash!

To the editor,

It seems a serious sickness has befallen *Excalibur*, typical of many once-quality agents in the mass media — that is, the regression toward commercialism.

Presumably, *Excalibur's* original mandate was to provide both a medium for conveying news and information pertinent to the York community and a forum for the expression of capable, budding writers — noble objectives within a university setting.

But how sad and disturbing it has been for us readers to witness the gradual degradation of *Excalibur* into the under-realm of tabloidism.

Witness the editorial cartoons, that apart from their wanting artistic merit, have rightfully led to charges of racism; or, the adoption of regular (now colored) cartoons and horoscopes, which would bring it on par with *The Toronto Sun* if only a Sunshine girl were inserted as well.

If that isn't evidence of an increasingly pathetic "newspaper" (if it can still be called one), can any literary credit honestly be recognized in those self-righteous editorialists and writers with an axe?

Notwithstanding the frequently obnoxious topics in themselves, grammatical transgressions and blatant vulgarities would have us wondering if *Excalibur* writers are only there as a project for remedial English classes.

In all seriousness, the state of *Excalibur* is an insult to the intelligence of the student body in assuming that a more commercialized paper would attract a commercialized audience.

I can only hope that the upcoming change of editors will also represent a change of philosophies toward the responsibilities of an editor and of his/her publication towards its readers.

Sincerely,
Glenn Ng

Display of unhealthy attitudes

To the editor,

One day I was sitting at the very back of a large lecture hall, bored and thinking of where I'd rather be.

I picked up the movie magazine that had been in that week's *Excalibur* and began browsing. Reading an article on Mel Gibson, a student next to me, who had been reading over my shoulder, commented on the fact that Mel Gibson was going to be playing Hamlet. Acknowledging his contribution to my reading I just agreed. "Yeh."

I flipped to the next page and before me was an ad for an air-fighter movie. There were three men standing in front of a fighter jet all dressed in pilot garb and standing with their arms crossed and their feet spread apart.

The student was still looking over my shoulder so I turned to him and asked, "Why do men stand with their feet so far apart?" I was informed that "they have to." (No comment) The student continued to explain this phenomenon to me asserting that, "it's a territorial thing. You know . . . when a guys sits on the subway with his legs apart, it's a territorial thing."

I asked if that was similar to the way a dog backs up and pisses on something. "What are you? . . . Some kind of lesbian feminist?"

The other day I was waiting outside of my T.A.'s office. She had another student in the office who was obviously upset with a mark. Fifteen minutes later the student left and I went in, not paying any particular attention to the departing student.

Time had eventually run out and the T.A. and I had to make our way to the class in which I had been accosted a few months earlier.

After the class, a friend who had come in late and ended up sitting in the back row, approached me with a funny yet puzzled look on his face. "There was this guy over there really upset with the T.A. because she wouldn't change his mark. He said that she was probably just a lesbian."

You don't need to be enlightened do you? . . . it was the same guy.

This student is young, articulate and intelligent. What is upsetting is that in a few years this student will probably be out in the work force perpetuating these unhealthy attitudes.

Is every woman who disagrees with this young man going to be labelled 'lesbian'? It makes one wonder how this student views the incident in Montreal last year . . . oh well, they were probably just a bunch of lesbians anyway.

T. Smith

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