

Israel jets have no bomb doors

Dear Editor,

Re: (*Excilibur*, Jan 15/92)

I read with interest your editorial "One year after the eve of destruction." I was chagrined but not unduly surprised by your dragging of Israel into an editorial where it has no place.

However, if you insist on doing so, please get your facts straight. Israeli jets do not have bomb bay doors. These "villages" are bombed because they harbour cowards who call themselves "Liberators of Palestine." They hide behind the skirts of their women, the toys of their children and the hospitals of their sick; by positioning themselves in the middle of these "peaceful" villages thereby turning them into armed terrorist camps.

Since we are talking of oppression, do take the time to point out that Israel is the only country in the region that is



Loathing and more loathing

Dear Editor,

Re: (*Excilibur*, Dec. 4/91) Fear and Loathing (and IMAX) in Thornhill. Holy Sweet Jesus! That wasn't a parody, it was a fucking rip-off.

Esquonces Lopez

Letter ignored the facts

Dear Editor,

Re: (*Excilibur*, Jan 16/92) Israel an Apartheid Regime
I find it absolutely disgusting that the *Excilibur* should print such an untruthful statement in your recent issue of the *Excal*.

It is truly irresponsible and unjust to literally accuse the Jewish people of collaborating with Hitler and Mussolini.

It would seem to me, that both you and Boulos Abrash have absolutely no respect for the six million Jews that died during the Holocaust, not to mention homosexuals, Blacks, the mentally and physically handicapped, and anyone else (including Germans) who spoke against Hitler.

The facts are there to be seen and read. There is no disputing them. The Holocaust was one of the world's greatest tragedies.

Learn from it, don't demean it! I should think that an apology would be necessary, and hopefully, in the future, you will be more apt to print the facts.

Revital Krochmalnik
Holocaust Education Committee,
Jewish Student Federation.

Excal a propaganda tool

Dear Editor,

I found the full page advertisement on page two of your Nov. 20 *Excilibur* an insult to my intelligence. How unfortunate it is to see the York student paper act as a propaganda tool for lobby groups on campus.

The "facts" outlined would be laughable if the situation for the Palestinians was not so critical. The arrows point the official Shamir government position, which instead of seeking peace tries to justify the occupation of the Palestinian lands with lame excuses about "security". Come on! It is common knowledge that Israel holds a nuclear arsenal as well as the most sophisticated military in the region. The omissions on the map in the ad were also glaring.

For instance:

—The South Lebanon Security Zone, which Israel bombed daily during the Madrid Peace Conference but received no condemnation. Why is it when a nation uses helicopter gunships it is called legitimate action, but when 14 year olds use stones it is "Terrorism?" —"Israel's water supplies?" Oh, they must mean the water they diverted from the Palestinian farmers to supply the settlements.

—The West Bank is necessary for defense. This has already been proven wrong in 1967 when the Israeli military did fine without it.

And the wildcard:

—The United States would never allow their biggest ally in the mideast to be threatened. The mideast is strategic, unlike, say Croatia.

Please *Excilibur*, I know it's tough being a struggling student paper. But try and remain neutral on this subject. Part of the problem with the issue is it is so emotional. How about a critical article not by an Arab or a Jew?

Those of us who care about human rights and justice must believe in the rights and freedom of the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

Sincerely,
James Oak

Violence in way of unification

Dear Editor,

Re: (*Excilibur*, Nov 27/91) Britain stands in the way of Irish Unification
I am writing in response to Tim Hanna's article. I do agree with the fact that 800 years ago the British did a horrible thing when they repressed the Irish tribes and took control of their land. Yet since then a new tribe of Irish, which in the article have been named loyalists, arrived on the scene. These people feel threatened that if reunification occurs they will be persecuted because of their ties to Britain. These loyalists have a culture and a history with Britain and with Ireland, which they feel they must protect. I know of many loyalists who would fight to defend their union with Britain and many who would die for it. This feeling is influenced by their fear of the infamous Irish Republican Army and their political party, the Sinn Fein, having any control over their lives.

Mr. Hanna seems to think that it is very unrealistic for the British to expect the I.R.A. to denounce violence before they will enter peace talks. Is it not equally unrealistic for him to believe that any loyalists would take faith in talks in which a group known for its violence does not attempt to lay aside its arms? Mr. Hanna mentions that the presence of the British army on their streets remind the nationalists of their oppression. Yet, does Mr. Hanna not realize that the presence of the I.R.A. poses a constant threat to the future of the loyalists?

I, like Mr. Hanna, pray for peace throughout the whole of Ireland. I pray for peace where both nationalist and loyalist alike can celebrate their lan-

guage, culture and history freely and openly. But I believe that in order for Ireland to ever become reunified the violence must end. Yet, for now, it is both the British and the I.R.A. which stand in the way of a united Ireland not just the British. Until the Irish people understand this the war will continue.

Praying for Ireland's future,
Kimberly Dempsey

York Lanes brightens York

Dear Editor,

The issue I would like to address is regarding the new Student Centre and York(dale) Lanes.

If you have been enrolled in York since 1988 or later, you did not have a chance to vote on whether you were in favour of the buildings or not. Unfortunately, the majority of the students who did vote felt that it would be a good idea to have these buildings. Remember, it is money that is taken from each student's tuition to help pay for these buildings, (something like \$23 per credit). Granted, people at York, myself included, may feel that other buildings or services were of greater importance, but the fact remains that past students voted in favor of this plan, and that the buildings are here, (after a one and a half year delay in opening).

I feel that while these buildings were not a number one priority, they do add a lot of character and appeal to York's otherwise outdated and rather bleak image. The student offices, fruit store, professional practices (ie. dentist), and food selection puts York students in a class of their own, considering no other university boasts these things on their campus.

Finally, I would like to urge people to visit the new bar/restaurant, "The Underground". This place is set up in a way that suits whatever taste or mood you are in. It also serves some of the best food on campus at very reasonable prices, and best of all it employs and is owned by York students. So while we may not all agree on the order of priorities at York, let's support what we have and make it work.

A. Davies,
3rd year Poli Sci student,

Survey of the Left biased

Dear Editor,

Re: (*Excilibur*, Dec. 4/91) Reading from the Left - Part II.

It's great to see left-wing publications getting some coverage in your newspaper. Unfortunately, David Camfield's survey of the left was selective and biased.

It is rather curious that Camfield's association with the York branch of the International Socialists (IS) is not

mentioned under his name whereas in other articles for the *Excilibur* he has been proud to display his affiliation. Somewhat less surprisingly, the International Socialist publication, *Socialist Worker* leads to a rather glowing assessment of its importance. What is really meant by "a substantial circulation from coast to coast" is that a small group of IS militants (representing a national membership numbering in the tens) on certain campuses, tirelessly flog their publication. While I salute the International Socialists for their dedication, there is really no need to so grossly exaggerate their relevance.

Camfield's trenchant critique of the newsletter's unattractive (but improving) writing and layout notwithstanding, *Socialist Worker's* "attempt to deal with a wide range of issues from (a) left perspective" is really nothing more than a constant call for the One Great Revolution as the only solution to the complex problems faced by Canadians. The constant grumbling about the 'nationalism' of other left-wing publications is really an indication of the International Socialist's profound lack of respect for the past gains of the Canadian Left - cultural, political, and economic - presently under attack. One should be able to argue against the erosion of national cultural specificity by American commodified culture without being condemned as a simple 'nationalist'.

Finally, the assertion that "the NDP doesn't publish a single periodical" could not be further from the truth. In fact, the Federal NDP publishes a bilingual national magazine for the discussion of progressive policies entitled *Alternatives*. The Ontario NDP publishes *The Ontario New Democrat* several times per year. Young New Democrats are responsible for a number of publications including Ontario's *Egalite* and British Columbia's *Forward*. Each of these magazines and newsletters deal with issues of national and international importance and enjoy a level of support from working Canadians that Camfield's *Socialist Worker* can only dream about.

Jordan Berger,
Proud York New Democrat

Eurocentric Human Rights

Dear Editor,

I am displeased about the Prime Minister's performance at the recent Commonwealth summit in Harare, Zimbabwe. During the meeting of the heads of the government, the Prime Minister of Canada charged African leaders that Canada would tie its aid policies to the respect of human rights.

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister didn't use the same honesty in examining the root causes of human rights abuses in the continent. To assert the crucial importance of human rights and to develop a critique of African human rights practices, we have to examine the underlying causes of human rights in the continent.

Admittedly, it is true that many African leaders often abuse their subjects, but it is totally unfair to put the blame on them alone. The period of the cold war in Africa often created tense exchanges and sometimes dangerous confrontations in the continent, thereby causing insecurity in many African states.

Indeed many African countries had to protect themselves from the barbarity of invasions. Such was the case in Angola, Chad, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe. In countries which were of strategic importance to the West like Zaire, Mobutu was heavily backed by the United States to oppress and repress all political movements in that country. African scholar Mazrui points out in his work in the West, owing to the strategic minerals of Zaire, it would have been prepared to go to war over that country.

In Mozambique, where Samora Machel relaxed his security apparatus, he was killed in a plane crash by racist South Africa. I do not mean to imply

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democratic and not ruled by a dictator or a tyrannical king with delusions of grandeur.

It is strange but not unexpected considering your bias that you fail to mention a significant source of instability and that is the constant attacks by Arab terrorists on innocent civilians riding in buses, driving in their cars, shopping in their markets and indeed, sleeping in their homes.

Your lack of balance is sad but in lieu of your track record, expected. One would hope for better from a newspaper that claims to represent the entire York community. Try to be more objective in the future.

Sincerely,
Aaron Kendal

Israel's double standard

Dear Editor,

This past year I have read many letters in the *Excilibur* concerning the Mid-East crisis. To those people who have written letters in support of Israel, I have many questions:

1) Why is it acceptable for Israel to militarily occupy land which does not belong to them? As we have recently seen, it is not so for other countries.

2) Why is it acceptable for a "civilized" country such as Israel to perform various human rights abuses on the Palestinians, including torture, to keep them in constant fear? Do not even try to deny the use of torture, it does happen.

3) Why is it acceptable for the Israeli army to tear gas Palestinians or even shoot young children, when it is the crime of all crimes when a Palestinian stabs an Israeli? In my eyes these are all crimes. Why do you feel it is acceptable for Israelis to abuse the Palestinians?

4) Why does Israel need a "self-declared security zone" when the Arab countries cannot have one? Israel has sporadically invaded Lebanon on many occasions. Don't other countries have the right to protection too?
I hope no one misinterprets me, I am strongly in favour of the Jewish homeland of Israel, however I cannot accept it as it is: a corrupt, prejudiced, and imperialistic nation. A final word to both sides of the Mid-East dispute would be; quit bickering about the past, and examine the present. Look at who is committing the greatest atrocities. Isn't it about time something is done about Israel?

David Manga