

Writer compares fabrication thesis of Holocaust to flat earth theory

Mark Stephenson says he no longer believes the "thesis" that the Holocaust is an "historical fabrication" (Letter, March 17). Unfortunately, Stephenson hasn't latched onto the fact that the historical fabrication "thesis" is not really a thesis at all.

Allow me to draw an analogy: There are still people who believe that the earth is flat. To explain away contrary evidence, they say there is a powerful conspiracy intent on convincing people that the earth is round. Accordingly, they claim that such things as "space flights" and "satellites" are historical fabrications.

It is impossible to prove to the

flat-earth people that the earth is round because, whatever evidence you produce, they will say that your "evidence" merely proves that the round earth conspiracy is very powerful and very good at fabricating evidence.

The status of a real thesis is determined according to the evidence for or against it. But, the flat-earth "thesis" counts all evidence which in fact counts against it, as counting for it. Thus, the flat-earth "thesis" is not a thesis at all; it is a fantasy.

Similarly, there are people who claim that the Holocaust is an historical fabrication created by a powerful Jewish conspiracy. To

explain away the mountain of evidence which documents the history of the Holocaust, the Holocaust-never-happened people employ the same strategy as the flat-earth people. That is, they claim that this mountain of evidence merely proves that the Jewish conspiracy is very powerful. Again, this is not a thesis; it is a fantasy.

It would be comfortable to suppose that Jewish conspiracy "theories" belong only to the past history of anti-Semitism, but it appears that even here at York there are people who are willing to give such "theories" serious consideration.

Brian Henry

'I thought CRO's were to be non-partisan'

Editor's Note: A copy of the following letter was sent to *Excalibur* for publication.

Mr. Ty Burt
Speaker
Council of the York Student Federation

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In case you haven't read *Excalibur* March 17, 1983, there is a letter to the editor from Larry Till. In this letter he expressed opinions about the above-mentioned newspaper. Does this disqualify him from being Chief Returning Officer? Are CRO's supposed to express opinions on referendum questions, or influence the voting populace? With *Excalibur* asking for support through a referendum does the enclosed letter not encourage people to vote for this support?

Does Mr. Till fee free to abuse his position? I thought CRO's were to be non-partisan.

CYSF still hasn't learned not to choose CRO's who are not politically involved. Will they ever?

Maude Withers

It makes snow sense

The snow weighs heavily on the scales of justice. Winter arrives late as did the candidate, the unexpected onslaught of winter-like conditions being a common factor in both of these regrettable situations. Surely the Chief Returning Officer of CYSF could have used a more enlightened view when exercising his discretionary powers. York University students, at best, have problems with transportation. It shouldn't take much imagination to envisage the devastating effect of Monday's weather on the system. Unless of course, you're the CYSF C.R.O.

Anticipating traffic problems, I set out for the University with what I thought was ample time. The C.R.O. had left by the time I arrived at 5:15 p.m. Staff member Jeff Drutz was helpful in trying to track down C.R.O. Larry Till, but was unsuccessful. After finally getting in touch with him Tuesday morning, he was inflexible and would not accept my application for Senate Rep. Mr. Till said that the only option open to me was to petition the CYSF tribunal. He neglected to point out, however, that by the time my petition is considered by the tribunal, the Senate positions will have been filled.

Due to an unavoidable 15-minute delay I must now wait a whole year to exercise my democratic right to run for the Senate, frustrating both me and my supporters.

J.F. Nagy

Students defend Chris Holmes

Last week's *Excalibur* offered a most amusing and ironic juxtaposition of articles. On page one, you covered the York U. conference on "University Education: Substance and Symbolism", and on page five, you carried a student letter "in praise of Prof. Holmes". The contradictions between the symbolism and the substance are most apparent.

The aim of the conference was "to stimulate the York community to focus on our own aspirations and re-examine some of the intentions with which York started its original pilgrimage." Engraved in stone on the Ross building, is this statement of York's aspirations:

We at York... must give special emphasis to the humanizing of man freeing him from those pressures which mechanize the mind, which make for routine thinking, which divorce thinking and feeling, which permit custom to dominate intelligence, which freeze awareness of the human spirit and its possibilities.

Murray Ross

These words are part of York's heritage, and we might wonder where the substance is to back up this symbolism.

On page five of the *Excalibur*, we have a student praising Dr. Holmes--as many would--because he embodies exactly these ideas of education

suggested by M. Ross. Without a doubt, Dr. Holmes is one of the most informative, mind-expanding and inspiring professors we have within this institution. He actually teaches about the nature of the human spirit, and how to unfreeze awareness. But what is the substance of our university education? It seems likely that Prof. Holmes will be dismissed from our university because he dares to explore topics like mysticism, consciousness, the psychic sciences and spiritual psychology.

M. Elliot said at the conference on education: "The conference on the verge of 1984 is timely." It certainly is. They should offer Dr. Holmes the opportunity to talk about the real substance and symbolism of university education.

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