

EDITORIAL

Athlete vs journalist

Over the years, a number of York's teams have argued that *Excalibur* should not be critical of varsity teams and should always highlight the positive aspects of the Yeomen and Yeowomen squads. After all, they are only university athletes right?

To put it bluntly, this is a pathetic excuse that is usually supplied by teams not prepared to do their best.

Student athletes are not above criticism. The fact that varsity athletes are supported by university funds gives student journalists the right to treat athletes to objective reporting.

While we will give prominence to our successful athletes, we are also obligated to report on our unsuccessful varsity teams.

This is where the problem develops between the student journalist and the student athlete.

The role of the newspaper is not to blindly support the teams of their city. The same argument holds true for a university newspaper.

The journalist goes to the events and reports on the happenings. He or she is not there as a rooting section for the team on which they are reporting.

While it is necessary for a reporter to recognize the effort that university athletes put into their programs, especially in the context of a full academic workload and financial burdens, it must be appreciated that the student journalist is also trying to derive something from university sports.

Like athletes, student journalists also try to excel at what they do. But in order to excel, they need to experience, and this experience comes from covering varsity sports.

When reporting on university sports, the student journalist tries to be as professional as possible.

No one would ever suggest to a hockey Yeoman or a volleyball Yeowoman that he or she is not doing their best. Obviously, nothing less can be expected from a student journalist.

The best any journalist can do is to provide insights and factual evidence of a sporting event to the reader in an unbiased form. If this means telling fellow students that the hockey team was demolished by Ryerson, or the soccer Yeowomen were embarrassed by UofT then so be it.

The idea behind varsity sports is not some simple childhood concept of having fun. University athletics are competitive and as such, provide a forum where student athletes and student journalists both strive toward excellence.

**VARSITY ATHLETES DISGRUNTLED
WITH 'BAD' PRESS START
A MAIL-IN PROGRAM TO
VOICE THEIR OPINIONS.**



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, Room 111, Central Square.

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish twice-weekly, and distribute across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excalibur* staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

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Attention Excal shoppers: There will be no staff meeting this week so see you all next year. But don't despair, you can still take advantage of our final special-of-the-week. This week, Calgon is just \$1.49 and Sani Flush is only \$2.99. Don't forget, with the holiday season almost upon us, now is the perfect time to stock up on great gifts.

Poli sci dept not racist

To the editor,

Your article by Jeannine Amber on racism in the Nov. 21 issue cites a leaflet by the Ontario Federation of Students which offers our department as an example of institutional racism.

The claim that because we offer 21 courses with a Canadian focus but only "one on Latin America, one on Africa and two on the Caribbean" is appallingly misleading.

On what possible grounds are our courses on India, China, Japan, the Middle East and Eastern Asia left out of this list of courses by area coverage?

Moreover, why should our second year introductory course in Comparative Politics, the whole second term of which is dedicated to the Third World be left out? And why should our courses on the Politics of the Third World, Imperialism, and all our many courses on imperialism, not be included?

Should it be ignored that in our Women and Politics course description it explicitly says that the politics of racism is a central issue to be dealt with? Should it be ignored that our international relations courses (including those on Canadian and American foreign policy) are oriented towards global political issues, not least of all the Third World.

And why should it be assumed that our Canadian politics courses (including those on Public Law and Human Rights) are not concerned with issues of racism in our own society?

The issue of institutional racism is an extremely important

one. And political agitation that sensitizes people to this issue is to be commended. We all need to look at course offerings and course content at universities in this perspective, as our faculty did in a workshop recently on the topic of sexism and racism in the classroom.

But the situation is hardly improved by such simple-minded and misleading presentation of the "facts" as the OFS leaflet offers. This can only harm rather than help the cause.

Leo Panitch
Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science

Excal 'toon 'derogatory'

To the editor,

We are thoroughly disgusted with your ignorance and insensitivity with regards to the "Wrestling Parody" of Andrea Shettleworth/Jean Ghomeshi in the Nov 26 issue of your paper.

Andrea was depicted as a barbarian/savage/animal with Neanderthal-like features. She is barefooted and is wearing war paint.

Jean, on the other hand, is portrayed as the defenseless, thin white male about to be devoured by the savage.

A characteristic is an exaggeration of EXISTING characteristics of an individual. There is nothing about Andrea Shettleworth that is reminiscent of a Neanderthal.

It is not at all surprising that a newspaper within a racist institution would perpetuate the colonial stereotypes and attitudes held by the institution itself.

Although you profess to be an autonomous publication independent of institutional influences, there is little distinction between your cartoon and the history course that fails to give blacks the credit for their many significant contributions to humanity.

It is especially ironic that such a representation would directly follow your last issue on institutional racism.

In light of this, the racist responsible for this derogatory portrayal should be fired from his/her position. Under these circumstances, a mere apology will not suffice.

Paula Bennett
Kisha Munroe

Yanks not evil

To the editor,

(Re: 80 turnout for anti-war teach-in Peace movement at York, Nov. 19)

This article quotes Bashar Abdul Qadar, president of the York Arab Students Association, as saying, "if there is one enemy that we (Arabs) want to denounce and get out of our business, it's the U.S. government because they have represented imperialism and the divide-and-conquer attitude in the Middle East".

He goes on to speculate that the "Arab world is willing to lose 20-30 million people in a war to ensure that the U.S. does not dominate the region anymore".

Who in their right mind can view this as a statement of peace?