

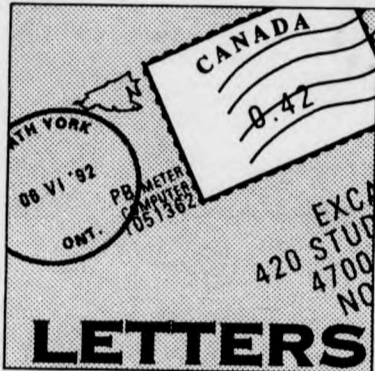
Racism course trivialized

Dear Editor,

It has come to our attention that course 3020.06 "The Paradox of Racism" has been changed from a full year to a half year course for the upcoming year and furthermore, that a new course director has been contracted to replace Jackie Wilson as a result in the shift from 'unit 2' to 'unit 1' hiring practice. This raises a number of issues that as York students we are extremely concerned about. In the first instance, we feel strongly that the proposed change from full to half year will trivialize a course of study that is essentially unique at this university. The proposed theoretical emphasis and elimination of sufficient time to explore contemporary issues in racism, will effectively circumvent the possi-



This is the size of the demo on Monday May 7 at Yonge and Wellesley. We were big. Don't believe the hype - photo by Tom Schneider



bility of attitude behaviour change that is so vital to a course of this nature.

Secondly, while we appreciate that economic constraints in the 90's cannot help but affect academic policy, the choice of instructor should not be based solely on the 'bottom line'. Jackie Wilson has brought a level of experience, competence and commitment to the course that is rare in the experience of this group of students. Her ability to integrate theoretical interpretations of racism within the context of important current events has taken the artificiality of the classroom into the 'real world' and we have been enriched by the experience.

Finally, York has for many years been perceived as an educational institution that is willing to go outside the 'mainstream,' providing students with the intellectual scope and emotional

breadth to become initiators of positive social change. We are concerned that this important aspect of York is being overlooked as new economically based priorities are being initiated. The 'Paradox of Racism' is the only example of anti-racist education available at York and it is paradoxical that a multicultural institution such as this would choose to shackle it given the many other alternatives available.

A. Brant Coleman,
 Representing the 3020.06 class.

Didn't have to write article

Dear Editor,

I've been meaning to write for some time now to comment on the rather unfortunate political tone as constantly expressed in each and every edition of *Excalibur*. As you might imagine, I've been putting it off, waiting for the right opportunity. Well, that time has finally come. What eventually led to this decision was your April 1st cover feature "Stephen Fienberg's Corporate York."

I find it is a highly destructive, elaborate form of cheap gossip without colour of any detached analysis whatsoever. You paint Mr. Fienberg as some form of monstrous fiend whose evil "corporate philosophy" will inevitably lead to our collective destruction. This implies that you remain utterly nescient to the concept that there may be those among us who would welcome the changes Mr. Fienberg would bring and would delight in seeing our University run by someone whose policies are so antithetical to those espoused by the plague of all you new-age socialists.

Excalibur, it is quite lamentable, suffers from this crippling disease. I would like only once to see a fair and impartial piece of journalism be printed onto the massive amounts of newsprint you distribute. I as are many others, am not interested in listening to you grind your many axes. I merely want to know the truth. Turning stories into (rather bad) editorials only makes people hate you.

You didn't have to print those unfair cartoons of Mr. Fienberg. You don't have to call Rushton a racist, though you may criticize his scientific method. You shouldn't assume that all men have a deeply rooted desire to hurt women

(real men don't). You cannot call the decisions of *Obiter Dicta's* former editors "poor judgement." These are all highly inflammatory remarks which have obviously not been properly debated. Contrary to what you probably believe, you leftists are not in any way intellectually superior and as such, you have no right to force your opinions onto others.

In brief, stop the qualitative language and divide your political appetite(s) from journalism. Only then will you find justification for killing so many trees.

C. Armour-Kidson
 1st year Computer Science

Corporations are a problem

Dear Editor,

Re: "Education is a commodity" (Letter, Mar. 25)

A letter by Michael Crawford in *Excalibur* suggests that corporations should not be taxed to provide for free education for fear of their departure to countries that tax them less.

It seems a common misconception that without large corporations there would be no jobs and our society would perish. However quite the opposite is true. Large corporations frequently impoverish a society by sending its funds to far away places. (Local Employment and Trading Systems (LETS) address this by using their own electronic currency which can only be used within the community.)

In a society without large corporations, people become self-employed. This allows the individual better control over her/his life and also the flexibility to respond easily to market demands. This translates in the demands of the local community being met by its own members. This makes for a stable economy and hence a healthy and prosperous society. While making a closed economy of total self-sufficiency is almost unobtainable and can be undesirable, we should strive for as much self-sufficiency as possible to enjoy the obvious benefits of economic stability.

Multinationals focus on the exact opposite: They ignore the needs of the local people and, to maximize their own profit, exploit the differences in laws and customs between different communities and use the cheapest parts of each but evade the corresponding social responsibilities. They take services, labour, products, but return nothing or little. Thus they 'steal' from all communities. The damage they do by alienating people within a community, destroying people's institutions, local jobs, means to recovery from catastrophe, ability to self-determination and other intangible qualities of human society, is enormous and incomparable to the small amount they return in salaries and occasional monetary donations.

Admittedly, if all large corporations walked out from our country at the same time, they would cause human

suffering since we have come to rely on them. But all the more reason to want to get rid of entities that hold such destructive power over our communities that they can threaten us and which are devoid of social responsibility!

If large corporations leave, we can start building a healthier society. Else they should pay their share into the society. Ideally a long transition period will take place whereby more and more people become self-employed and large corporations become more and more disadvantaged in our society. A couple hundred years (or less) are enough and the electronic age is facilitating this.

Next time you go shopping choose things that were made locally (if possible). Join a LETS system. Look out for the possibility of working at home and providing services for your local community. Stop whining that we need corporations and work towards decreasing our dependency on them.

Sincerely,
 Iain Calder,
 York University Greens

Job well done

Dear Editor,

Re: "Hardcore racism is not a thing of the past" (Editorial, Apr. 1)

From one sister to another, I would like to congratulate Jeannine Amber on a job well done. I am glad that you were strong enough to deal with the racism you were subjected to through cowardly presented letters. After all, if they were so cowardly that they did not have the guts to sign their letters, I do not believe that you should take their sentiments seriously. Those Black students who protested against the behaviour of the racist security guards were brave enough to stand up to administrative indifference and show themselves publicly. They did not hide behind letters.

We need more Blacks like you in this world. Black men and women who are unflinching in their determination to make changes where changes need to be made. Good luck in your future, and I hope that *Excalibur* continues in the trend which you have helped to set.

Janet Jones,
 Fourth year Philosophy

Propaganda not reportage

Dear Editor,

Re: "Stephen Fienberg's corporate York" (Feature, Apr. 1)

The article on V.P. Fienberg by Doug Saunders with caricatures by Jim Hounslow has to be one of the low points in student newspaper reporting at York. Normally, I find the information presented in *Excalibur* to be reasonably accurate, and the conclusions reached by your reporters to follow sound reasoning. Most of this was missed in Saunderson's discussion of the merits of Prof. Fienberg as a president for York. Allegations and innuendo (eg. Fienberg's from Carnegie Mellon, Carnegie Mellon has substantial revenue from the military, Fienberg's now at York, ergo York is about to become a vassal of an industrial/military alliance?) are a dismal and degrading substitute for sound analysis and clear reasoning. Saunders and Hounslow have produced an effective piece of propaganda, but reportage it is not. *Excalibur* ought to apologise to the York community and in particular to Stephen Fienberg for this demeaning piece.

Fred Morgan,
 Physics Department, and
 Bethune College Council

Earth Summit Word Search

WORD LIST

- AMERICAN PRESSURE
- BINDING GLOBAL WARMING TREATY
- BIODIVERSE?
- BRAZIL ECO-POLICE
- CARBON DIOXIDE
- CARLO RIPA DI MEANA BOYCOTT
- COST OF MILLIONS
- DROUGHT
- ECOSYSTEM DAMAGE
- ELECTIONEERING
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE
- EUROPEAN CONCESSIONS
- FLOODS
- FOOD LOSS
- FRESH AIR
- GREENHOUSE EFFECT
- JOBS OR NATURE CHOICE
- KEEP POOR OFF STREETS
- METHANE
- NATIVE "EARTH CHARTER"
- NITROUS OXIDE
- NOBODY PAYS
- NO COMMITMENT
- NO FORESTS
- PHOTO OPS
- POPE LIMITS (DEBATE)
- POP(ULATION) OFF AGENDA
- POWER GAMES
- PREPARED AGREEMENTS
- PRO-DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
- PSEUDO-SCIENCE

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RIO DE JANEIRO
 TECHNOLOGY TRADE
 TOXIC WASTE

TRITE RHETORIC
 UNITED NATIONS
 WILL PRESIDENT BUSH GO?

The following puzzle was developed by Ira Nayman. Look for the solution on the back page.

We will publish letters up to 250 words. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Material deemed libelous or discriminatory by the staff of *Excalibur* will be rejected. The opinions expressed are those of the letter-writers and do not represent those of the *Excalibur* staff, Editorial Board, or Board of Publications.