

questions:

1. Would any representative of the South African regime be allowed to establish an organization or speak at York?
2. Would any representative of a "white supremacist" organization be allowed to establish an organization or speak at York?
3. What of groups that degrade women, attack gays or are morally reprehensible?
4. Who will decide and what are the criteria?

The writers owes his readers the answers to these questions now. The Provost and the President must clarify the situation after they have made a decision so that the community may have a clear understanding of the policy of the Administration."

—Wayne Burnett

### Excal should blush in shame

Editor:

Please allow me to comment on the article by your columnist Laura Lush in last Thursday's issue. Did I detect an unfortunate example of irresponsible journalism? I think I did. Norman Bethune College has been the sponsor of a conference focussing attention on the Caribbean Today: Third Decade of Independence. This is, in itself, a very important event in the history of our York community for reasons. First, it is one of the very rare occasions that such centrality of focus has been given to the Caribbean area. Second, it is the first time in my 18 years experience at this university that so many departments and units have actively come together in collaborating financially and collegially in a conference effort sponsored by a constituent unit.

Evidently, *Excalibur* finds this not important and newsworthy, for it carried no reporting of the conference per se despite many futile attempts by me as Conference Coordinator to liaise with Ms. Lush on the matter. Instead, it found newsworthy, and carried at length, Ms. Lush's article which succeeded in highlighting the concerns of a small and noisy off-campus group who have sought and would seek every opportunity to gain publicity for partisan viewpoints on the internal affairs of one territory of the English Speaking Caribbean. Dr. Grant is an academic in his own right whose expertise is perhaps unmatched in the area of hemispheric relations and Caribbean regionalism. It is this expertise which the Conference organizers sought to put at the disposal of our academic community in order to promote informed dialogue and understanding. Dr. Grant has not been invited to York to speak on behalf of or about the Government of Guyana.

One would have expected the responsibility and balance of *Excalibur* to compel it to bring these aspects of the story to the attention of its readers. But such a constructive task proved to be beyond its resources.

To publicize misguided attempts by an off-campus group to boycott a conference that is of considerable benefit to the overwhelming majority of the York Community is an irresponsible act of cheap journalism that should cause *Excalibur* to blush in shame, and Ms. Lush doubly so. As for the Guyanese dissidents, however valid they think their cause might be, I should like to remind them of what their grandmothers would have advised. "Be careful never to throw out the baby with the bath water." "Tut, tut," I say to both the would be disrupters and to *Excalibur* that a sense of identity is a community's strength. Find it, and champion it; for all else is ephemeral sensationalism.

—Percy Anderson,  
Associate Professor,  
Division of Social Science,  
Norman Bethune College.

### YSMAA secretary answers Bricker

Editor:

Cal Bricker's rejoinder in your last issue of *Excalibur* is to say the least, unbecoming. At every level his letter belies the impression he would like to give of one who is rational and "mannered." Apart from misrepresenting the issues at stake, he leaves me in no doubt that he is insensitive to the integrity of life which is and must be the most fundamental right of every human individual. If he is not insensitive to the integrity and right to life of the oppressed majority in South Africa, he would at least respect the moral courage and humanity of those Canadians—Whites, Blacks, professors, students, church leaders and other peoples of conscience—who withstood the sub-zero temperature to protest against a system that denies life to other human beings like Cal Bricker. Cal would have known that it is not free speech that was on trial. He would have known that it is apartheid that was and still is on trial. He would have known that apartheid is not a debatable issue and that you do not debate with a stone. Glen Babb represents a system that believes in what it practises without any apologies to "rational manners," human decency or democratic principles of equality, liberty or free speech. The struggle in S.A. is not freedom of speech, but "freedom to life" by a people that face extermination daily. And the people here in Canada who still believe in the supremacy of life

over the smokescreen of "free speech," who believe that ALL can stand up to them (beyond academic mouthwashing), know that their behavior is not in any way "goonish." They know that their behavior challenges the moral paralysis of fence-sitters, apologists and hypocrites. They also know that what Glen Babb and his agents are up to in Canada presently is not to "debate," and reason, but to use every platform to perpetuate their offensive of deliberate misinformation and mystification to seduce Canadian public opinion.

We trust Canadians are wiser and will not be led from the central struggle of freedom to life and one man one vote to a sterile trick of free speech and rational manners, when even right now, someone is being shot by South African police.

If Cal Bricker is disgusted with Mr. Himbara, may it not be suggestive that he is also disgusted with all those who believe in defending human life and the right to be free? May it not be suggestive that he is worried that he is not coming out as a friend of those struggling now?

I rest my case believing that Cal Bricker knows that it is a mass movement he finds disgusting and not just "Mr. Himbara and his colleagues." The media reported over four hundred people from different backgrounds all united in their singular resolve to resist apartheid. And they are not goons—someone else must be a goon somewhere!

—esiri dafiewhane  
YSMAA Secretary

### ALL EXCAL STAFF:

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See ya there.

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