

LETTERS

Socialist paper offends reader

Dear Editor,
Last Thursday, as I was walking through Central Square, I noticed two women displaying the Socialist Worker newspaper. The feature article had a headline that read "Israel's Soweto." This is too much to bear especially in the "Jewish" section of Central Square. This biased, unobjective article racistly condemned Israel's treatment of those poor, innocent Palestinians. They made an innuendo in another article that "as Palestinians are dying, Jews are prospering."

When I queried this lady where in her article it stated that, in order to preserve Palestinian lives, soldiers were first using tear gas, rubber bullets and only after these failed, live ammunition, she fumbled and stuttered and could not show me this. When I later asked her to tell me what she would do if she was running Israel's government, she stated that she would do exactly what Israel is doing now. This is sheer hypocrisy!

PLO members resort to terrorist tactics ie: hijacking, letter bombs and ambushes to achieve their wretched missions. On countless occasions, the PLO has been responsible for the deaths of Christians and Jews both in Israel and Lebanon. Yet this is not mentioned in this biased article. The PLO is hell bent on destroying Israel, and its dictator, Arafat supports the rioting and violence that his people are causing.

Arafat, in his refusal to even try to negotiate a peace treaty with Israel is destroying himself and his people. Yet none of these facts are printed in the Socialist Worker. This is not journalism. This is antisemitic, biased, hate literature. I strongly urge that these radical antisemitic, antidemocratic radicals be banned from presenting their hate literature at York and other universities.

Yours truly
Michael E. Kay

Smith polemics offensive: reader

To the Editor,

At York University there is a wide and diverse student body with conflicting opinions. This requires that when engaging in debate, it is best to keep the level of discussion at a mature level that is conducive to a polemic atmosphere. However, from time to time we come across an individual who is unable to restrain himself and express his opinions without showing his true colors to be laughable. Jim Smith is such an individual.

Therefore, I refuse to respond to Jim Smith's letter which recently appeared in *Excal* so as to avoid entering a competition to prove who can be the most offensive, immature and ridiculous. Mr. Smith wins that competition hands down.

Sincerely,
Adam Blechman

Resident students high-risk group

DEAR EDITORS,

Recently, Mr. Jack Layton, Chair of the Toronto Board of Health and Toronto Councilor, informed 100 student government representatives of the prevalence of AIDS in Toronto. As your representative, I feel it is my duty to inform our university community that we are considered a high risk group. At the present rate of infection in Toronto, the probability that people on campus have been infected by HIV+ (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is *absolute!*

It was on January 15, 1988, that the Health Department for the City of Toronto released its latest statistics on reported cases of AIDS in the city. To date, 331 cases of AIDS have

been identified (43% are still living). In addition, there are 2,651 reported cases of HIV+ which could have been infecting the bloodstreams of local citizens for the past seven years. This statistic didn't seem very significant to some, but when Mr. Layton informed us that these numbers represented a group of 400,000 people between the ages of 15 and 55, the room grew silent. The most disturbing part of this information is that reported statistics only represent the "tip of the iceberg."

At present, the doubling time of HIV+ has been calculated to 18 months. The projected estimate for diagnosed cases of HIV+ over the next 18 months is 21 new cases every day. Between June 18, 1987 and January 8, 1988, 737 new cases were reported (1896-2633). Among homosexuals, the rate of infection has decreased significantly, while the most noted increase is among heterosexuals.

My intent is not to scare anyone into a life of abstinence, as this is not realistic, but to make people aware that we are no longer exempt from the possibility of being infected. By the most conservative estimates 2.6% of the population of Metropolitan Toronto currently have AIDS. If the statistics are correct, at least three people in each residence could already be infected with the AIDS virus, and most likely don't even know it. The next time you're sitting in one of the Curtis Lecture Halls, look around; 9 people could have it. I used to think that we were safe on campus, but our specific lifestyle does not support this assertion. In a closed community like residence, it takes only one person infected with the HIV+ to instigate a disaster.

I would love to prove the experts wrong and say that within three years, I won't know anyone who has been affected by AIDS, but at the rate it is spreading, the outlook does not look good.

Obviously, AIDS is a problem with which we will all have to deal; right now all we can do is slow things down. So if the urge arises, *please* protect yourself by having a condom or two or three handy, because it is more than your life with which you're playing.

Ron Kline
Stong Representative to CYSF

What about heavy water?

Editor:

I read with interest Prof. Megaw's rebuttal of my letter declaring nuclear reactors unsafe. I noticed that that the learned prof. addressed only one of the three examples I gave of how nuclear contaminates the environment. I conclude that he agrees that radioactive heavy water is being pumped into like Ontario and that the spent fuel is so unmanageably and lethal that nobody knows what to do with it.

I find the prof. rather callous when he quotes statistics about accidents as a result of other types of hydro generation. I also find him annoying when he talks about today's accepted risk factors and social as well as monetary costs. Who has accepted these risks factors he talks about?

If the prof. is correct and there is no safe means of generating electricity we should all be pursuing a type of energy which does not pollute and is within our grasp. I'm talking about conservation energy.

The bottom line for me is that I won't quietly stand by and watch this planet become so contaminated that it won't support future generations. The general public is standing by. The ones who are watching are guilty of selfishness. The ones who don't know about the danger are guilty of ignorance. The people who work with and promote nuclear energy as the learned prof. does are guilty of a crime which time will prove unprecedented in the history of mankind.

Ron Tedwald

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