

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Reader gets to deliver message again: he still reads red

The purpose of a school newspaper is to act as a forum for discussion among students. The Excalibur, however, has persistently and consistently presented (and advocated) a left-wing approach across the board. A university dedicated to the pursuit of higher education should have the presentation of all ideologies as its ultimate goal. If one is to read the most recent (or for that matter, any) issue of Excalibur, it becomes blatantly obvious that the "University's Independent Press" is not satisfying the aims of higher education.

Examine the facts. The pages are filled with articles concerning and supporting striking unionists, radical Marxists, uninformed peaceniks, deprived feminists, gay parents (we wonder how they manage it), and various other revolutionary factions. The reality is that these groups represent the minority, leaving the majority unrepresented within the university's press. The aforementioned issues will contribute nothing to the hopefully successful careers of the university's potential graduates. Many graduating students will undoubtedly find positions within business, where a practical point of view becomes crucial. The utopian and untried views of this minority are indicative of the surreal world in which they live.

What has stood the test of time and contributed to basic human rights and pursuits? What has led to the present level of health, wealth, and freedom, where these minorities can vocalize their views? If the majority of our parents had been critical, left-wing extremists, we could not and would not be attending university. We have their sound, practical, and tried foundation to thank for our security. It's easy to condemn the "establishment" in a free society,

but, lest we forget, it is the establishment that, to a large degree, pays their bills.

Robert van Velzen
Dean Martin
Political Science

Blaming Excalibur for other's opinions

Your correspondents Robert van Velzen and Dean Martin complain that Excalibur... has persistently and consistently presented (and advocated) a left wing approach across the board. It is a pity that, in the nature of things, they could not point for support to the issue in which their own letter appeared.

Consider, for instance, Paulette Peirol's report on 'The Social Justice Film Series', which contrives neither to notice nor remark that the professed concern "for human rights, especially with respect to workers and unions" rather conspicuously does not embrace any concern at all for those oppressed and exploited by Marxist-Leninist

governments. "Solidarity is a very strong topic in the series", we are told. But there is no suggestion of solidarity with the Polish Solidarnosc, no concern "for human rights with respect to workers and unions" under Soviet and Socialist oppression.

Again, on the Letters page, Abie Weisfield goes on about arming "the U.S. military for World War Three." Have no writers to or for Excalibur ever noticed the massive Soviet military build up, which has been escalating steadily ever since the Cuban missile crisis? Why do we never see so much as a mention of the fact that the Cruise and Pershing missiles are to be installed in Western Europe only in response to the steady Soviet installation of super-accurate SS20's, targeted on Western Europe; much less to the further fact that the U.S. and its allies are eager not to install the Cruise or the Pershing, if only the U.S.S.R. would abolish those menacing SS20's? Why, if not in the interests of Soviet world dominion, does any proposed disarmament have to be always strictly one-sided?

Antony Flew

Forced retirement is discrimination

The agreement reached by Prof. Lorch and the Administration of York University is an encouraging development and of potential benefit to all older workers who prefer to continue to be gainfully employed.

Unless it can be shown that mass incompetence infiltrates the working ranks of Canadian men and women on the eve of their 65th birthdays, the policy of calculated economic incapacitation should be identified for what it is: the retrieval of economic resources from a devalued segment of the population for the benefit of a more valued group, the young. Despite attacks against mandatory retirement practices, the convictions that determine who will work and who will not remain essentially

unaltered. The older individual is set apart from the rest of society and classified as a non-productive member. Economic recessions provide an acceptable excuse for attempts to accelerate the process.

Discrimination is just as powerful and inhibiting on the basis of age as on the basis of colour or sex. Retiring a man or woman when she or he is sixty-five merely because he or she is sixty-five involves the same kind of prejudice as not hiring him or her at thirty because he or she is black. In neither case is the basic issue of ability to contribute constructively examined.

Mary MacFarlane
LaMarsh Research Program
Bethune College

Santos' political bias obvious

As a Jewish Student at York University, I feel obliged to respond to the curious remarks of Miss Judith Santos in the February 10th issue of Excalibur.

Firstly, the line, "It reminded me of the massacre in Lebanon," coupled with her intimation of an anonymous acquaintance, directly implicating the Jewish Student Federation, offers a fairly clear insight into Miss Santos' political biases. It seems equally obvious, that by her using a sheep as an example, it is difficult to conceive of something

which would not remind her of the incident at Sabra and Shatila.

Secondly, the line, "It was the first time I was so outraged in my life," is a blatant confession of Miss Santos's inability to properly align priorities.

I find it hard to believe that someone in the exalted position of CYSF Director of Women's Affairs, has yet to encounter a more disquieting occurrence than a childish prank such as was exhibited Wednesday.

With regard to her self evident

EXCALIBUR

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Mark Zwol, our illustrious Sports Editor, showed us he's got the same stuff between his ears as those guys he's always writing about: why stop playing EVEN IF you have a broken foot?!! Sympathy and best wishes to Hop-Along. Lerrick hasn't lit a ciggie in a long time, but he still doesn't deserve that homemade chicken when we all have to eat in Central Square. Thanks to Brian who's learning, Monica from Switzerland, John with a pipe and similar roots and Debbie who pretended to be Mario. What's burgundy and warm? TSK 700. Hey! Congratulations. Who wouldn't want another Perry Mason? Time is flying: Spring is coming. I know because I found a bright yellow daffodil beside my bed. Get those essays in folks. Thank to an old editor who showed up at midnight and filled some white space with incredible speed. Nightie night.....

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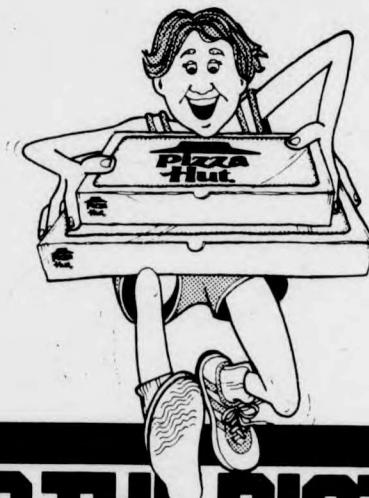
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