

cont'd from p. 6

option rather than entirely ignoring it as he did in his letter.

Mr. Pritchard's response to criticism is also less than adequate. His claim that he merely intended to "respond" to my letter of February 26 is not substantiated by the following examples:

First, I argued that "... 'Captain Condom' suits ... detracted from the seriousness of a growing disease (AIDS) for which there is no known cure."

Mr. Pritchard's rebuttal clearly distorts the meaning of my comments: "The committee is certainly very aware of the seriousness of the health crisis posed by AIDS. As a matter of fact, it was this awareness which led us to form the committee ..."

Secondly, I began my earlier letter by stating: "I would like to protest the apparent endorsement of 'Condom Day' in the February 12 issue of *Excalibur*."

Mr. Pritchard responds: "I applaud and thank *Excalibur* for its contribution to making Condom Day the overwhelming success that it was. Our goals and expectations were far exceeded ..."

In both instances, Mr. Pritchard makes only passing reference to my comments and uses them simply as starting points for numerous well-disguised public relations gestures throughout his letter.

Based on such evidence, I remain unconvinced that the Lesbian and Gay Alliance is truly as "profoundly concerned" about the entire York student population as Mr. Pritchard claims. Perhaps this newly discovered "concern" attests as much to the persuasive impact of CYSF funding as to any real interest in the well-being of the average student. If indeed the financial clout of the Student Federation was, indirectly, partially responsible for events such as Condom Day, it raises the question: could the CYSF (and York University Administration) not better fight AIDS by directly funding an information campaign against the disease?

Kevin Marshall

Factual mistakes plague review

Editor:

I would like to respond to Loren Arduini's review of *The Suicide*. I am not commenting on Arduini's opinion of the play, nor on the quality or usefulness of the review, but rather

on the mistakes the piece contained. As the dramaturge for the show, I spent six months doing research and other work on the play, and I feel that I am therefore qualified to correct a few things. The assumptions Arduini made could have been clarified by myself, the director, or the assistant director.

First, Semyon Podsekalknikov is not a "peasant." He is never described as such in the script; he lives in a Moscow tenement. It follows that his friends cannot be "villagers." Nowhere in the script does it say that Semyon owns his flat: no one in the USSR in 1928 owned an apartment, instead they rented from the government.

The musicians who took part in the show were not "in Russian costume," they were dressed as Gypsies, and there is a difference.

The caption beneath the group picture claimed that those pictured were choosing the method of Semyon's suicide. They never did this. What they did argue over was the note Semyon was to leave behind.

Semyon never proclaims during his argument with his wife Maria "that a man is worth nothing if he cannot be of any use to his country." Such a selfless, pro-revolutionary statement that gets the suicide story going is "are you after my last breath? You'll get it." Semyon never blames his suicidal state on the "economic crisis and confusion in the country." He blames the government for his difficult life and unemployed status. The government seems to have forgotten that it promised everyone everything they needed.

The script used in our production was not "an adaptation of a French version of the script with an added Russian emphasis." The translation that was used, by George Genereux and Jacob Volkov, was translated into English directly from the Russian. The contribution of Yanina Gotsulsky was to change some words and phrases to produce a more literal translation, free from non-Russian idioms. We never even saw a French translation. Who said the original scripts were destroyed in 1932? The play was banned, has never been published in the USSR but underground copies of the play were distributed. I found no evidence that scripts had been intentionally destroyed.

The review failed to mention a few important names: who directed the

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Only divestment can show true stand against apartheid

By DAVID BROWN

□ David Brown is the treasurer of the York Student Movement Against Apartheid.

March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racism. Prior to this, the York Student Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA) will be holding an educational week on South Africa, March 16 to 20 in the Bear Pit in Central Square.

This University has over 17 million dollars invested in companies with holdings in South Africa, a country in which over 35,000 people have been arrested over the past two years. More than 2,500 have been shot by police in the streets, very many of these are students under 18 years of age. Hundreds more are simply missing, feared dead or interned for unspecified periods in government "re-education" concentration camps.

Our Board of Governors and the Pension Fund Board of Trustees have passed motions appearing to agree with divestments but which actually give no mandate for any action. How do you feel about this? If you want to know more come and visit our table, watch the films and videos and make up your mind. The viewpoint of YSMAA together with the campus trade unions is for a total divestment of every blood stained

dollar.

Safe in Canada, academics and politicians discuss whether to divest while in South Africa school students are being shot dead for complaining about teacher-pupil ratios of 60 to one and higher. While they and their parents are denied citizenship to the country of their birth and detained or simply shot for daring to ask for the right to vote, our University continues to financially support this racist system. The African National Congress (ANC)—the liberation movement of South Africa—has called for total sanctions. The late ANC president, Chief Albert Luthuli, when awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960 called on Western governments to invoke sanctions. His call was then ignored. Today the ANC is seen by the vast majority of South Africans, both Black and progressive Whites to best represent their interests and aspirations.

The recent Commonwealth Eminent Persons group acknowledged the ANC as "a government in exile." Brian Mulroney has offered to meet the current ANC president, Oliver Tambo, and yet the politicians and academics are still discussing whether "to divest or not." The people of South Africa are calling for divestment. Why is it that when an oppressed nation calls for sanctions to be placed upon its government do

we assume we have the right to decide if this is in their best interests? Would you be thinking twice about taking positive action against a Black minority government that was behaving in the same murderous fashion as the apartheid regime?

York students should do all they can to push for divestment and to support the ANC. You can make cash donations to support the ANC Freedom College in Tanzania, East Africa, which caters to students who have fled from the terror of racism and oppression. We will also have a week long collection for non-perishable food and clothing.

Films and videos will be shown throughout the week between 12:00 and 3:00 p.m. in the Bear Pit in Central Square. Movies such as *The Freedom Charter* (Monday), *Six Days in Soweto* (Wednesday) and *Choosing for Justice* (Friday) will be presented. Videos to be shown include Winnie Mandela (Tuesday), Nelson Mandela (Thursday) and Sun City (Friday).

On Friday night in Vanier College, we will be hosting a Dance Down Apartheid party. The money raised will also go to the memorial scholarship fund for Esiri Dafe-whare, a York graduate student who was a poet of great talent and until his untimely death, president of the YSMAA.

ELECTIONS FOR EDITOR TODAY AT 3:00 P.M. SHARP

All eligible voters must attend the candidate screenings to vote in this year's election. Voting will take place for one hour immediately following the screenings and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday.



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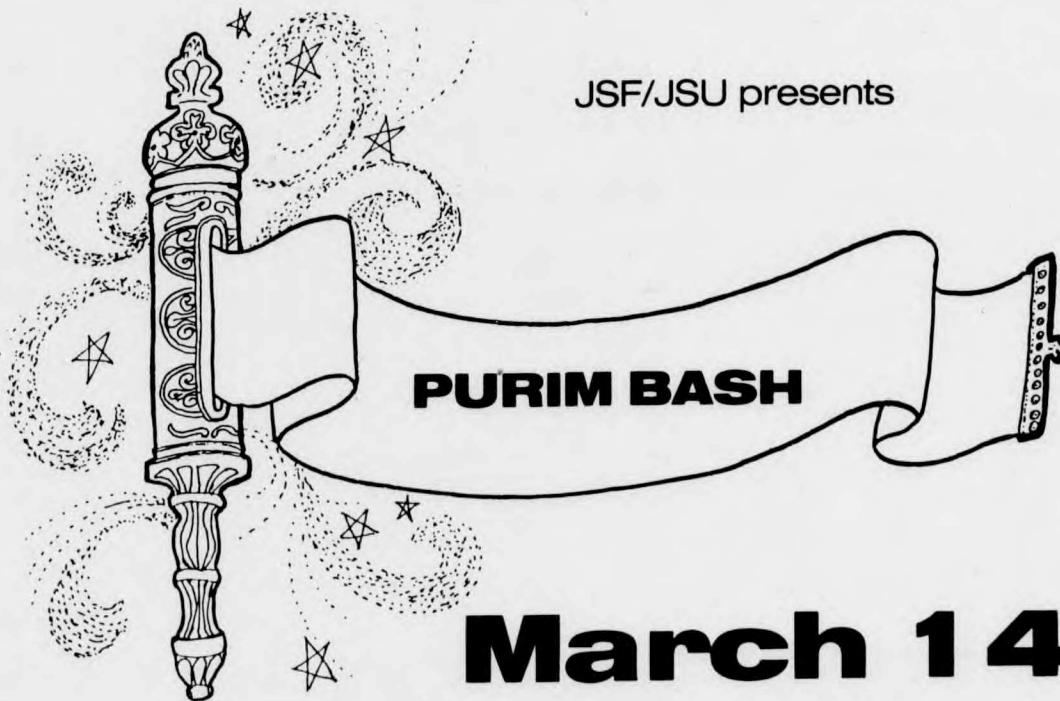
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