

Why can't the front page be cheerful now and then?

Are political issues and controversies the only topics which merit front page attention in your paper? The negative sides of current events (and I'm not saying that I don't believe that there are negative sides) seem to be constantly in the forefront in almost every newspaper that I buy or happen to pick up.

What I am getting at specifically is this: why cannot something (i.e., Steve Maclean's winning of the National Gymnastics title) uncontroversial and cheerful find a place on the front page occasionally? After all, such things concern York students, too.

Does your staff have to emulate newspapers outside the university community in its concerns? You may think so, but I do not.

Barb Crane
McLaughlin College

Signing privileges

Though my name appeared at the bottom of last week's opinion piece ("ULCers support ULC") supposedly from members of the United Left Coalition, I have not in fact been a member of the ULC for the past two months, nor have I taken part in its campaign.

When I signed the piece it was as a member of the Excalibur staff endorsing a minority editorial. I do wish the editors of the paper had consulted me before changing the terms of my signature. To me this is just pointless meddling.

And may I ask the editors if they think the above-mentioned heading was a fair way of presenting an article which they didn't

happen to like? It seemed to imply that Excalibur contributors, who are also ULCers, aren't permitted the right to express themselves as staff members.

Paul Stuart

Kindness lives

I am writing this letter, not only to thank certain people in the Computer Science Department, but to assure some doubtful people that kindness, thoughtfulness, helpfulness and just plain nice people still exist on this campus.

Recently, I was assigned a project which required me to use the computer in the Steacie Science Building. I was out of my depth, and for two weeks struggled but finally succeeded, thanks to the many helpful people who hang around over there. Thanks, not only to the O.S. advisers, but to lots of other students who just volunteered their assistance when they saw me in trouble.

I hope there are as many great guys in the other departments and faculties of this university as there are in Computer Science. Thanks again.

Alix Walden

Insult to Othello

Come, come, ForsterFreed! You refer to the Glendon College Players in Othello, and with an authoritative wave of your hand, claim this is "amateur theatre at its worst" (Excalibur, March 4). I

attended the performance three times, and spoke to several people, all of whom had nothing but praise for the performance.

I have no wish to cavil with your viewpoint, merely to stress that for the past forty-five years I have literally immersed myself in Shakespeare, and produced and directed many plays, here and in England. I don't feel, Mr. Freed, that you are qualified to assume the mantle of a drama critic with a surface knowledge and no experience, and with blatant effrontery condemn the production of Othello, as you have.

In your outpouring, I detect an immature attempt to down-grade the efforts of the director-producer, and the whole group of artists. You have taken it upon yourself to condemn, without mentioning one good piece of acting or direction, blasting the whole production as the "worst" ever.

And you are not even an authority! This is an affront, and the Glendon Players and their director can only hold you in contempt. Perhaps, Mr. Freed, others saw the effort behind the play, through different coloured spectacles, realising there was neither thrust stage, proscenium nor platform, thus restricting movement. I see these young amateur artists, not "at their worst", but in the process of learning and reaching a certain level of attainment in time.

They need encouragement, as do all amateurs. Riding roughshod over these fine Glendon "neophytes" is unkind, and had you strewn a few crumbs of applause in their paths, you would have felt better for it, and so would they.

But you indicated to me and

others, that you are incapable of adjudicating, and the editor had no right to aid and abet you, in what I would term a most insulting and provocative dissertation, by publishing your discordant viewpoint.

The Entertainment Editor should try to raise the quality of Excalibur to a higher plane. By printing the caption, Glendon's Othello lets down fans of the Bard, they have left a nasty taste in the mouths of a fine director and his group, a director who has, in his finger tips, years and years of experience, a director who took a group of fine young amateurs, and "dared" to produce Othello. And produced it magnificently!

In a free society, you and I have the right to air our views; but we must be sincere and honest and, even in criticizing a play, one must have integrity. Somewhere along the line, Forster Freed, I seem to have lost you.

"Amateur theatre at its worst," you say! Take my advice, Mr. Freed, cultivate a penchant for the truth, and a quality of restraint when next you offer some criticism.

Louis Green

What price TM?

Your article on TM (Excalibur, February 26) was suitably entitled "Mantras for Millions". However, it should have been completed to read "Mantras for Millions of Dollars".

Taking for granted, for the mean time, that Kirkegaard's statements are true, does he not

regret the fact that millions of people will never be able to "locate that which is beyond the deepest level of consciousness" due to the ridiculous prices which his organization charges to "reduce oxygen consumption and broaden the flow of alpha waves"?

Using Mr. Kirkegaard's own figures on enrolment (1,000 per month in Toronto alone) and the average price of \$80 per person, one may clearly perceive the basis of our cynicism.

First of all, how can a person justify spending a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$115 for adults (a few dollars short of a university course) for a few hours of instruction and a "mysterious mantra"? Second, how can Mr. Kirkegaard justify receiving \$960,000 a year? What, if anything, is the globe-trotting Yogi doing with the millions of dollars which he receives each year from "enlightened" North Americans?

We have no objections to meditation, since its benefits seem infinite, but we do have objections to a small group of people taking advantage of an over-stressed society.

David Spiro
Michael Stein

Support noted

The women's centre would like to acknowledge the contributions received from the following and thank them for their support of our three day women's event: Founders, Vanier, McLaughlin, Stong, Calumet, Bethune and the CYSF.

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