

Nkombe's symbolic protest. While we must remember and denounce all types of slavery, Joma displayed utter ignorance and disrespect for attempting to conduct his own little demonstration during a Remembrance Day gathering. While Mr. Nkombe is trying to remember and acknowledge his past, so too are we (Canadians). Remembrance Day gatherings do not and do not intend to glorify war, they are intended to be sombre gatherings to remember those who gave their today for our tomorrow. Canadian Remembrance Day activities glorify war just as your demonstration glorifies slavery; they don't.

It may surprise you, but some Canadians are proud of their heritage. I think that it would be most appreciated if you could show some respect while in attendance at traditional Canadian gatherings, as I am sure we would at yours.

Rick Geater

## Exciliber opens can of worms

Dear Editor,

Once again the *Exciliber* has opened up a proverbial can of worms with the article "Peace Talks Have Little to do With Peace." During the Multicultural Week at York, which was supposed to expound the virtues of the various cultural and ethnic groups on campus, the *Exciliber* ever-so-subtly slipped in this biased piece which had little purpose other than to accuse Israel of so-called "state terrorism."

Perhaps Gamal Abdel-Shehid is bitter over the hijacking of various Arab airliners by Israeli-sponsored terrorists, not that the world remembers any such event ever taking place. But then, the world doesn't remember the 39 SCUD missiles that Israel absorbed during the Gulf War either, so at least we're being consistent.

There has never been Israeli-sponsored terrorism. Too bad the PLO, Syria, Libya, Iraq, and a plethora of other factions and fundamentalist movements can't say the same of their people.

Regarding Mr. Abdel-Shehid's criticisms of the U.S. government handling of the Gulf War, have we forgotten that the Arab League itself condemned Iraq, not just the United Nations? The United States did not aggressively move into Saudi Arabia, the King invited them to protect his borders.

As for Judea and Samaria, otherwise known as the West Bank, let it once and for all be said that this land belongs to the State of Israel, if for no other reason than the simple ancient law of right of conquest. (How else

## letters continued

could the annexation of said land by Jordan in 1948 be explained?) Now, I might be accused of supporting a double-standard, because shouldn't Iraq have control over Kuwait by the same reasoning? Unfortunately no, since Israel acquired Judea and Samaria by fighting a defensive war, a point often forgotten. Syria, Egypt and Jordan were the aggressors in 1967, not Israel.

Who in the world would have protested if Kuwait would have successfully defended itself and even pushed back Iraq's armies and occupied Iraqi land? Maybe Libya and Cuba, but surely not the righteous Arab League nor the United Nations.

The U.N. itself has always been an anti-Israel institution, condemning it for acts of self-preservation continuously. From 1948 to 1967 when the West Bank (which should have been a Palestinian state according to the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan) was annexed and administered by Jordan, there was never an outcry by the Arab world to give the Palestinians their homeland. Now, of course, King Hussein isn't demanding the return of the West Bank to Jordan as Syria demands the Golan Heights. Why would he? King Hussein is by no means a stupid man. He realizes that the Palestinians are more trouble than he needs.

And speaking of Palestinians, could they realistically hope to gain anything from the Madrid talks after any ounce of credibility they had was shattered thanks to their leaders taking the wrong side during the Gulf War?

And Lebanon. Has Mr. Abdel-Shehid and the rest of the world forgotten the story behind the Israeli invasion of Lebanon? Forgotten how the PLO carried out suicide missions to infiltrate Israel's northern border? Forgotten about the several occasions on which these guerillas murdered several Israeli civilians including children? And if he's so concerned with Lebanon, perhaps Mr. Abdel-Shehid should petition the Syrian government to end their occupation of that country.

But I must agree with one of Mr. Abdel-Shehid's points. He is right about the mainstream media propagating lies and myths, but the lies are about Israel, the tiny Jewish state of 4 million people surrounded by hundreds of millions of Arab neighbours. Yet, Israel is still portrayed as the big villain of the region.

Saar P. Rozen

## Advertisement of JSF clarified

Dear Editor,

I'd like to comment on the Page 2 ad (Nov 19) sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation.

It's important for the public to realize that for the current peace talks to succeed, Israel's concerns must be recognized and addressed. Israel's view of the Palestinian controversy is completely influenced by the fact that there occurred two Arab-launched wars against Israel *before* the West Bank; Gaza and Golan were captured. Furthermore, were Israel to just give back the West Bank, her complete East-West border would be just nine miles wide - an area smaller than the width of Toronto! Given the track record of the Arab countries surrounding Israel - can one forget Saddam

Hussein's SCUD attacks on Israeli civilians? - I don't blame the Israelis for any toughness on the land question. Considering what's at stake, they just have too much to lose.

Limore Noon

## Prof's remarks cause dismay

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the York Arab Student Association, I would like to express our profound dismay and our disappointment at the remarks made by Professor Dan Scheuftan, on November 13th, at an event sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation. His remarks such as "All Arabs are violent" and "All Arabs want to poison baby Jews" are discriminatory, unfounded and inevitably leading to the dehumanization of an entire nation and its people.

## Direct Democracy Party questions government

Dear Editor,

When was the last time that your member of Parliament surveyed you on pertinent issues of importance? It may have been some time ago, because the Government employs polling services such as Angus Reid, Decima Research, Environics, etc. to obtain relevant information.

Another source of "valuable data" are "consultants" which cost the taxpayer many millions of dollars annually.

If the Government farms out much of its business to so-called experts, then what is an M.P. supposed to do? I am aware that some representatives write letters to their constituents and some debate in the House of Commons. I am also cognizant of expensive "research trips" to other countries which often include entire families.

However, it seems to me that the main function of any M.P. is to pro-

mote "the party line" and engage in negative PR with respect to the other parties.

Every four or five years, the electorate gets to examine two or three issues in an election. Then, they are asked to decide which of the parties are worse than the others. What follows after that is usually impulse voting, which is a negative reaction to perceived unwanted conditions or personalities. All in all, this is democracy as a crapshoot at best.

The Citizen's Forum discovered that many Canadians resented being ignored by the political process and politicians, but surprisingly little of this seemed to register with the Conservative Government. (Both the idea of a Constituent Assembly and referendums were met with negative reactions.)

To select a few, however, this negative reaction to politicians did reach home. I wouldn't be writing this letter unless it did.

We are a club committed to the proposition that a center of learning, such as York University, should be free from all prejudice in order for its members to receive an unbiased approach to education. We have been and will always be dedicated to combatting all and any forms of discrimination; thus, we are adamantly opposed to racist remarks such as those uttered by Scheuftan.

We call on all the requisite university agencies to guarantee that our inalienable right to be educated in a university free of stereotypes be upheld; further, those agencies, as well as all York community members, should maintain that such an action by any club is both deplorable and unacceptable. Complacency on this issue means that we are condoning or even encouraging, discrimination on a multicultural campus.

Jihad Yousef

York Arab Student Association.

The finding of the Citizen's Forum and related polls definitely indicate that Canadians want to participate to a greater extent in their political processes.

Endless commissions and surveys from governments over the last while have still left the public in a cynical state.


Conservative, Liberal, NDP, what do they really stand for? Who makes the decisions that count in these parties?

The Direct Democracy Party stands for what its name suggests. If the other parties are fearful of grass roots initiatives, multiple referendums, or independent, thinking individuals, we are not. The future is given to those who are willing to participate in its creation.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting:

Sincerely,  
 David Barron

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