

NEWS

Black History Month looks at roots of racism

by Trevor Burnett

Over the month of February, York has been celebrating Black history and culture. During Black History Month, there were many events presented by various groups on campus.

On Feb. 6, a film entitled *The Bible and the Gun*, narrated by British historian Basil Davidson was shown, dealing with the onslaught of European civilization and its impact on Africa and Africans.

Davidson said that Europeans first came to Africa to get slave labor in the sixteenth century. In the nineteenth century, the mission was to colonize Africa and "convert the heathen" to christianity. According to Davidson, it was this European imposition that destroyed much of

the fabric of traditional African societies.

Most of the missionaries already had racist notions about Africans, according to Davidson, an example being those held by the famous David Livingstone.

Livingstone said, "we come among them [Africans] as members of a superior race, and servants of a government that desires to elevate the more degraded portions of the human family."

The film also discussed the life of Rhodes scholarship founder and Rhodesia's (present day Zimbabwe) first president Cecil Rhodes. Concerning Africans, Rhodes stated, "just ponder those parts of the world that are at present inhabited by the most despicable specimens of human beings, what an alteration if they

could be brought under Anglo-saxon rule."

On Feb. 7, professor Dickson Eyoh, director of York's African Studies program, lectured on the historical impact of western imperialism on Africa.

According to Eyoh, Africa is an economic victim of the west because its socio-political structure is governed by western interests. This makes Africa a net exporter of capital and forever dependent on these neocolonialists, Eyoh said.

Arnold Minors, a race relations consultant lectured on "who controls your mind," on Feb. 11.

Minor's theme was that many Black minds in western societies have been channelled into Eurocentric modes of thinking. He believes this is the result of a historical

brainwashing that the African slaves went through in the new world.

According to Minors, the slaves were relentlessly taught to "forget you are African, remember you are Black." This has made Africans in the diaspora react negatively to association with Africa.

Minors also discussed the concept of racism, saying that racism runs deeper than just denying people housing or jobs. It is also manifested through cultural and societal norms and backed up by the educational system. Minors added that although not all whites are racist, all whites benefit from racism.

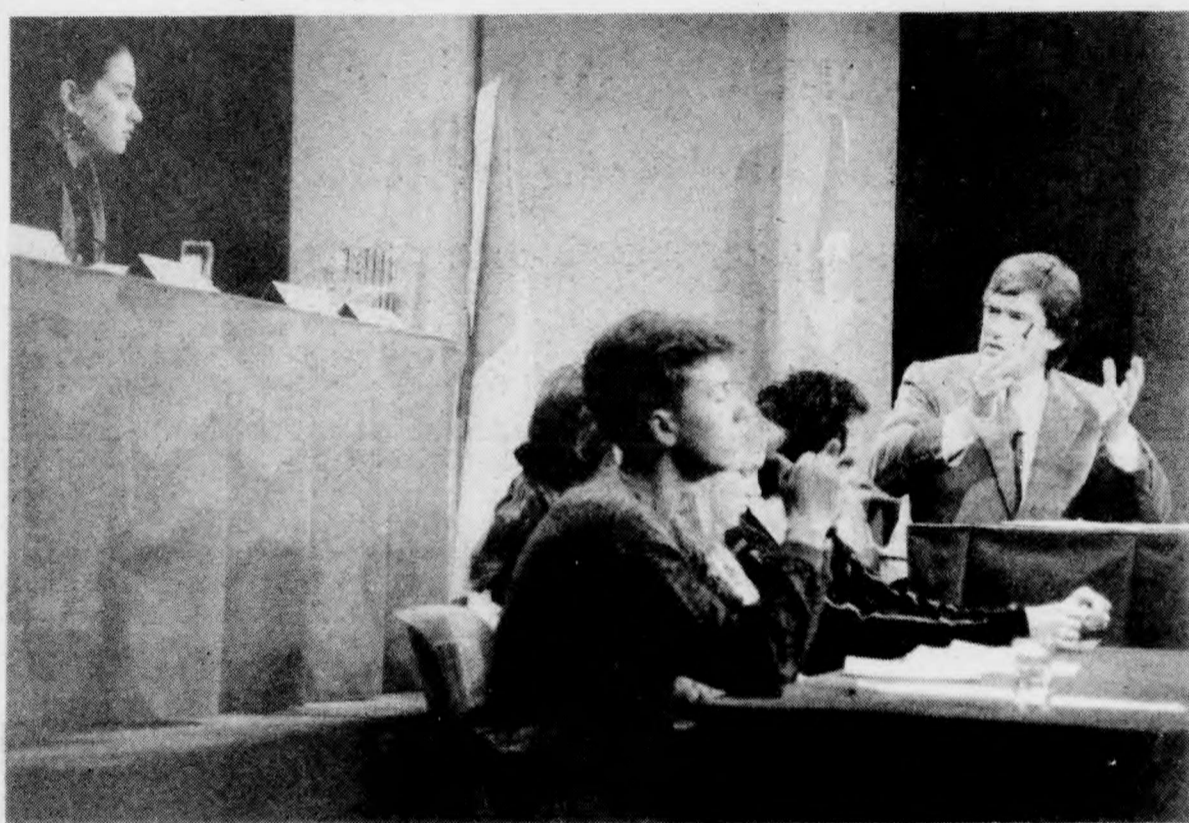
On Feb. 15, immigration lawyer Leroy Crosse lectured on Canadian immigration policy toward Black people.

According to Crosse, the present Canadian immigration policy is dis-

criminatory because immigrants are only allowed into the country if they possess special skills, or have a firm offer of a job which other Canadians do not want to fill such as domestic and factory work. The implications of this policy on Blacks are enormous, Crosse said, because they are presently the least preferred immigrants.

According to Crosse, the media is a major contributor to the problem because of its negative portrayal of Blacks. He feels that the media tells white Canadians not to let Blacks in or they will spoil the country.

The events were hosted by the Caribbean Students Association, the Nelson Mandela Law Society, African Students Association, Forum for African Students in Toronto, and York against Apartheid.



A. CLIVE COHEN

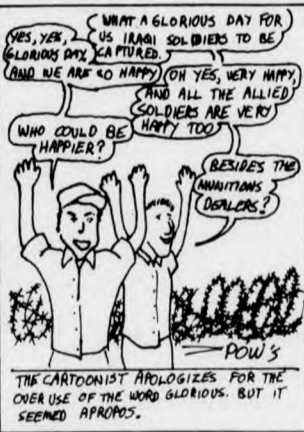
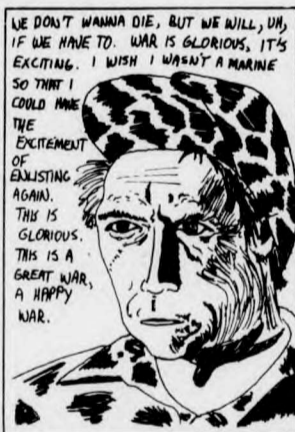
YOUTH AND GLASNOST: Bill Cameron, host of CBC's *The Journal* moderates a discussion between Soviet and Canadian high school students last Friday at Burton Auditorium. The 16 youths were meeting as part of a four-day conference called

Glasnost and Global Village hosted by York University. Part of the discussion was also broadcast live via satellite to the Soviet Union.

The Canadian students were winners of an essay contest which took place throughout

Southern Ontario. The Soviets, meanwhile, were all from the Moscow area, something one organizer suggested was due to the high concentration of English language specialty schools in the Moscow area.

Cyrano by F.W. Cameron



Campus Chronicles

by Jennifer Lim

Wilfrid Laurier University

Strippers have been found nearly naked around campus over the last several months.

The Dean's Advisory Council (DAC) passed a policy prohibiting the activity.

One incident included a female stripper pared down to a G-string in the Dining Hall.

The council implemented a ban which deemed the activity unacceptable. If convicted, strippers could face fines or jail terms.

University of Calgary

University safety standards have been reduced due to severe under funding.

According to Jack Berschl, manager of maintenance and operations, there is a \$12 million cut in this year's budget.

The university received less than \$8-million from Edmonton last year and calculates a yearly maintenance cost of greater than \$800 million.

According to Vice President (Finance and Services) Brian Tinker, the Alberta government provided \$7 million out of the \$20-million that was requested.

Instead, a commission was set up to study the funding problems but has yet to be conclusive.

McGill University

About 20 McGill students studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem are back for their midterm break.

Exams had been rescheduled three weeks later so that students could leave Israel before the United Nations Jan. 15 deadline.

According to Adam Dodek, all students plan to return at the end of the break regardless of the war.

Another exchange student, Justin Cammy believed that students feel an emotional connection with the country and its people.

University of Western Ontario

Theresa MacInnis, editor of the *King's Chronicle* was asked to resign on Feb. 7 or face dismissal by the college council.

King's College Students' Council (KCSC) President Jon Kielb found a reference letter written by MacInnis on a KCSC endorsed paper.

According to Kielb, MacInnis used the council's letterhead without permission which constitutes fraud under the criminal code.

MacInnis argued that Kielb was upset about a critical editorial published in the Jan. 17 issue about the council and refused to resign.

NOTICE

JEWISH WOMEN & THE NEW DIVORCE LAW

Lawyer JOHN SYRTASH speaks on the impact of Bill C61

Wednesday, February 27th, 4 p.m.
Stedman Lecture Hall 'C', York University

BACKGROUND: On June 12, 1990 royal consent was given to Bill C61, the first law in any country outside Israel allowing the courts to impose sanctions against a spouse refusing to give or accept a "get" (a Jewish divorce). John Syrtash, the lawyer who created and fought for the legislation will speak on the law and its implications.

Co-sponsored by the York Women's Centre, the Jewish Student Federation of York University, the Canadian Jewish Law Students Association (B'nai Brith) and the Osgoode Jewish Students Association.

For more information contact: Menachem Neuer (Jewish Student Federation) at 736-5178.

ADVISOR TO THE UNIVERSITY ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being invited from the York community for the position of Advisor to the University on the Status of Women. The appointment is for a three-year term, starting July 1, 1991.

Nominees should be full-time employees of the University.

Nominators should have permission of the nominees and are asked to send curriculum vitae and/or resumes to Ms. Birgit Langwisch, Assistant to the Provost, S920, Ross Building before 5:00 p.m. on March 15, 1991.

Terms of reference for the position are available by calling Birgit Langwisch at 736-6275.