

Letters to the Editor

Address letters to the Editor, EXCALIBUR, York University. Those typed (double-spaced) are appreciated. Letters must be signed for legal reasons. A pseudonym will be used if you have a good reason.

Americanization

Canada for Canadians! America for Americans! Deutschland fur Deutschen! Black Power! White Power! Catholics! Protestants! Us! Us! Me! Me! Fuck the Canadians! Fuck the Americans!

Fuck the Deutschen! Fuck Black Power! Fuck White Power! Fuck Catholics! Fuck Protestants! Fuck Us! Fuck Me! Egocentrism. Racism! Nationalism! Ethnocentrism — the feeling that one group is inherently superior to another group! I'm back again and

I ask myself where and when it will end.

I left the United States of America because I was being hounded by American flags on millions of automobiles, bumper stickers with "Love It or Leave It."

I left because the American government of the "people" was conducting an illegal and immoral draft to induct young, seed-bearing (that's me, of course) males into an army to murder inferior yellow men, women and children and systematically destroy the small Southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

I'm a naturalized American, because my formerly German-Jewish parents became citizens. I do not want to be judged, I do not want my performance as a student and teaching assistant at York University to be judged on the irrational and pseudo-political basis of my being arbitrarily defined as an American. I will only be judged by my performance.

As you can readily suspect, I am upset. I am upset by the Council of the York Student Federation, who implicitly and disingenuously condemn Americans at the university because they are Americans at a Canadian university.

This despicable practice must be exposed for what it is — rigid, stultifying, mystifying, fearful, demented nationalism.

They are not really concerned with the issue of education, which supposedly is the freeing of the mind, the freeing of the self from dogma, ideology, intolerance, fear, ignorance, ethnocentrism and

nationalism.

If a teacher is a good teacher, what difference does it make if he is from Afganistan, America, Iceland or Mars (I don't know of any, but I'd like to meet one).

While the Council of the York Student Federation impotently cries for the citizenship statistics on York University faculty and graduate students on page one of Excalibur, Oct. 1, 1970, the same page displays a photograph of predominantly American and some foreign automobiles stuck in Canadian traffic. For all intents and purposes Toronto appears on first sight like another big, ugly, sprawling American metropolis complete and replete with American cars, clothes, products and the consuming middle-class — it's all here.

If I were a Canadian and I really wanted to end American domination, I would fight Pox Americana where it hurts the most, that is, the purse, the almighty dollar, money! Stop buying American products, the consumer junk. Fight the appropriation by big American corporations of vital Canadian natural resources.

Fascists dislike ideas as well as deeds which threaten their view of the world. Last year in the States I was an elementary school teacher in New York City (heartland of the corporate elite which is doing such a fine job milking the Canadian economic cow) and at that time Ernst Mandel, a Marxist professor from Europe was refused entry. This year the Canadian government wanted to refuse Gabriel Kolko, author of the highly critical analysis of the American power structure, Wealth and Power in America, permission to teach at York University.

The Soviet government consistently prevents Russian artists and intellectuals from speaking against the government. The Greek Junta ("Z") crushes opposition. The Nazis burned books, which disagreed with their malign picture of the world.

Ideas are not deeds. Einstein's equation is not dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. People are free to accept or reject ideas, unless of course they are passive, consumptive robots.

The statistics on the citizenship of the faculty and graduate students should be released along with the statistics on the commercial interests of the university trustees, along with the statistics on the religious preference of undergraduates.

All these statistics I'm sure are extremely revealing. Let's open everything up for public inspection from the university up through and including the government. We must apply a single standard.

After the council's demonstration on Tuesday, I hope they will continue their militancy and demonstrate in front of General Motors, General Electric, General Foods, Ford, etc.

If they defer this significant and highly important responsibility, their impotence and neglect of the vital, pressing issues concerning the immediate welfare of the Canadian people will become embarrassingly apparent.

Edwin Rothschild
Graduate sociology

Sitting places

I would like to suggest the installation of some benches and overhead outdoor heating units on the north side of the open square between the bookstore and the cafeteria. This would create an excellent place to eat lunch or relax and get a tan on sunny days during the winter. With the cafeteria so overcrowded this year, I think that any additional place to sit, such as this, is both desirable and necessary.

Jim Noble

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