

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

THANKS!



Revisionist twisted

Although he says he no longer believes the Historical Revisionist nonsense that the Holocaust never happened, Mark Christensen (letters in *Excalibur*, April 7 and March 17) defends the Revisionists as if they offered a legitimate perspective. Christensen says that, to the best of his knowledge, the Revisionists are not Jew-haters, and he claims it is "just media hype" that the Revisionists are neo-Nazis.

To set the record straight: The Revisionists are utterly twisted with Jew-hatred. Their aims are to persuade people that the Nazis were not evil and never murdered six million Jews, and that the Jews deserved to be murdered in any case.

In my March 24 letter, I noted that to deny the Holocaust the Revisionists stand logic on its head and claim that the evidence documenting the Holocaust is merely "proof" for the existence of a Jewish conspiracy which industriously fabricates evidence. With similar "logic" the Revisionists claim that a "Zion-racist" (i.e. a Jew) who professes equality, brotherhood or democracy is disguising his true beliefs which (because he is a Jew) are necessarily evil.

Christensen protests that the Revisionists do not believe in a Jewish conspiracy, but he admits,

"some of them" believe the Holocaust is the fabrication of a Zionist conspiracy. Christensen neglects to mention that in the Revisionist fantasy, "Zionism" is not the form of Jewish nationalism which emerged in the 19th century. Rather, the Revisionists imagine Zionism as the present-day manifestation of an age-old plot to subjugate the world to Jewish demonism. As a sample of Revisionist hate propoganda, I quote from Ditleb Felderer's tract, *Anne Frank's Diary, A Hoax*:

All the way back in antiquity the Zionists have peddled their ware, a disease far worse than the leprous plague. (This first claim is lifted verbatim from Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.) In this way they have brought havoc, confusion, butcheries, cruelties, and death to millions of innocent people.... The Zion-racists continue on to our present day to whore their race merchandise, often under the guise of equality, brotherhood, and democracy. In truth, their form of "democracy" is no other thing but a chronic state of demonocracy--a rule by incarnated demons.

Brian Henry

Graduate Student Elections just sackcloth and ashes?

I have read with interest two very different post-mortems appearing in your paper recently on the Graduate Student Association (G.S.A.) elections: Ron Moore's letter appearing in the March 31st issue and Terry Conlin's letter in the following issue of April 7th. At this time I would like to add further comment; hopefully without flogging a dead horse.

Having appeared on the same slate as Ron Moore, his words, by association, have become my words. Although my participation in composing the slogans used was limited, naturally there was tacit approval on my part of everything that appeared in our literature; whether on posters produced by group effort or in letters written single-handedly by Ron Moore. There was not then, nor is there now, anything I would care to retract or to apologize for. Thus Ron Moore speaks for himself and his own interests when he apologizes that our slogans "...should not be taken as facts, but simply reflective of a certain amount of political license." For my own part, I maintain that our slogans, placed next to the campaign literature of Terry Conlin's slate, highlight succinctly the attitudes of his group that we, or at least I, found potentially hazardous to the effective operation of the G.S.A. For instance consider: "it is essential for

Grad. students to form a united front. MA's PhD's, TA's, RA's, GA's, the G.S.A. and C.U.E.W.: it is all the same fight." I feel this rhetoric is more appropriate for the union hall than for an organization which is not, properly speaking, an organization of labor advocacy but rather an open forum for all graduate students, including those who wish to struggle only for the mastery of their chosen discipline. We hit hard, but fair, so why the sackcloth and ashes?

A Former Candidate

THE COMMANDMENTS

To the Editor:

- 1) Thou shall not steal.
- 2) Thou shall not justify theft.
- 3) Thou shall not achieve thy goal through theft.
- 4) Theft is a crime is a sin.

Under these conditions, who is the better man: Bipin Lakhani or Mark Pearlman?

Enoch Bempong
Scrutineer that caught Mr. Pearlman with his hand in the cookie-jar.

Racially harassed woman

Reader experiences protest

Last week's *Excalibur* contained a letter from Janice Joseph, a graduate student in Sociology living in the Graduate Residences. Ms. Josephs has been subject to racial and sexual abuse by a tenant of the Graduate Residences, Grant Austin. For some time now Austin has been banging on Ms. Joseph's wall, stuffing garbage under her door, and racially insulting her in public. Ms. Josephs' complaints to York Housing, York Security, the Ontario Commission of Human Rights and the Metro Police fell on deaf ears; the best solution that the University could come up with was for Ms. Joseph to move from her apartment. After publication of her letter in *Excalibur*, three black students who attempted to talk with Austin in his apartment were surrounded by Metro police in a corridor of 8 Assiniboine Road, threatened, called "lazy niggers, thieves, and trouble-makers," and in one case kicked and physically abused.

A meeting called to protest these two incidents outside the President's office on Thursday, April 13 soon proved that this university is incapable of protecting its students from racial and sexual harassment. As President MacDonald gave equivocating, vacillating answers to the angry questions of the nearly 100 students gathered in the corridor outside his office, two undercover Metro policemen accosted a black student in a nearby men's room. They attempted to block the door and tried to interrogate him about the leaders of the protest meeting. His calls for help caused a wild rush and pushing match between the police and angry students. In an office of an Administration official, police tried to continue their provocation by arresting a student. Students crowding into the room forced the police to back down.

All this is background to some simple questions of this Administra-

tion. What steps will they take to protect York students from racist attacks, whether from sick individuals or the organized racism of the Metro police? President MacDonald showed a lack of leadership bordering on cowardice by refusing student demands that he walk 100 feet down a corridor to witness precisely the type of harassment that brought students to the protest in the first place. Who called the Metro police to this meeting? Is President MacDonald fearful of speaking to his own students? Why have the police been so diligent in defending this racist, Grant Austin, while the university has done damned little on behalf of Janice Joseph?

Today's incident was further proof of what people have been saying for a long time--the Metro police are out of control. The bath house raids, the Johnson incident, the raids on the homes of the anti-cruise missile activists have shown the Metro police as storm-troopers bashing all those who they see as their enemies--blacks, Indians, gays, and "subversives"--whether they be former Toronto mayor John Sewell or outraged York students demanding protection from racist attacks.

President MacDonald can use his considerable public influence to bring the police back under public accountability while at the same time protecting York students from further harassment. He can do this by making a public statement expressing his concern about the racism of the Metro police and their questionable activities on campus. He can restore confidence in his Administration by requiring York Security to accompany Metro police while on campus, to file a public report of the police activity, and to instruct York Security to protect the legal rights of students from police intimidation. And he can begin to make amends to Janice Joseph and to all concerned students for the

University's failure to protect our civil rights by having Grant Austin evicted from his Graduate Residence Apartment. Failure to take these minimum necessary steps will mean that in the face of a general crisis of Canadian higher education, President MacDonald is unfit to lead this University.

D.J. Shea

Why a president?

I feel compelled to write to *Excalibur* regarding a situation I found myself in just the other day. The incident occurred on April 4th and as elections are the 5-7th, I'm not sure what relevance this letter will have. Despite this, I write in anticipation that it will be printed.

A member for the campaign drive of Maurizio Bevilacqua noticed me reading an article in *Excalibur* about the elections--more specifically, the interview with Bevilacqua and Summerhayes. He proceeded to stress the extreme bias of both the front page editorial and the interview. My concern isn't with either article as I was also inclined to consider them rather one-sided for whatever reason. Instead, my concern is with the answer the campaigner gave to me when I questioned him on such matters as the late budget, the Bipin Lakani affair, and the initiation of the button campaign. He tended to stress the point that the president of CYSF has virtually no power at meetings and if things got out of hand, or if issues weren't discussed, it wasn't the presidents fault but rather the councils in general who he said wasted a lot of time on inconsequential issues.

The only thing that this indicates to me is Bevilacqua's ineptness in drawing members and in running a student council. If you're going to complain about the lack of power you hold in an office and as a result shouldn't be held accountable for the mistakes of your council; then I suggest you do something about it rather than use it as a lame excuse for council inaction. That, after all, is one of the duties of a president - to correct the failings and the shortcomings of the system. The fact that you haven't suggests to me that perhaps someone else should be elected who will.

Lenny Atkinson
a Concerned voter

Reader feels a poor past repeated in election race

It has been with great personal interest (as opposed to significant personal involvement) that I have watched history repeat itself in the great annual spectacle, the CYSF "elections."

Two years ago, about this time, *Excalibur* reported the election of a president in a campaign fought on many of the same issues as this year's. To quote from the editorial of the day, "Council people have, on occasion, acted too freely because no one can become privy to information without committing themselves to the secrecy we would have them prevent." One hopes that the election of a new president will allow the staff, faculty, and most of all the students, to find CYSF an open forum for debate, and a willing helper in the funding of community projects.

CYSF presidents are not judged by the magnitude of the projects they implement, nor are they judged by the "bottom line" of the finances at the expiry of their term on April 30. Each is, however, judged by the status of the co-operative relationship they have established between the CYSF and York's administrators college councils and the diverse interest groups necessary to a vibrant university community.

It is my personal wish that Chris Summerhayes will be remembered as a president who established such a relationship based upon the honesty born of having nothing to hide. If each member of the community takes an active interest in the affairs of CYSF, perhaps this goal can be achieved not only this year, but in perpetuity.

To conclude, as did the editors of *Excalibur* March 19, 1981: "What York students need is not a great leader, or a brilliant administrator. What they are looking for is one honest man."

John Wright

EUROPE

this summer CACF/OTU, representing the French non-profit student travel organization OTU in North America, has some excellent solutions for your trip to Europe:

Paris (open return)	from \$588 Cdn.
London (from Niagara Falls, N.Y.)	from \$369 U.S.
Rome (from Niagara Falls, N.Y.)	from \$429 U.S.

Accommodation in University residences throughout France, single rooms, July / August, no reservations needed: \$9.00/night!

Car rentals: from \$49 for 6 days, unlimited mileage (Price per person, valid only in conjunction with a Trans atlantic ticket and based on 2 passengers travelling together).

Contact: CACF 180 Bloor Street W.
Ste. 1204
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2V6
Tel.: 960-8182