

Editorial

The legacy of Rev. King: re-evaluating the state of race relations at York

Written on the bathroom walls of York University:
 "baby Jews fuck their dads so they look the same"
 "Gays are mutants and like all deleterious mutations, they must be eliminated—death to homos"
 "God bless Hitler"

Martin Luther King, whose birthday we mark today, had a dream. His vision was of a world undisturbed by racial conflict, where individuals would be judged on merit, and not by the colour of their skin or their ethnic background. Reverend King helped to bring racial inequalities to the forefront of international consciousness, forcing the United States to scrutinize its social conventions and enact legislation to protect against racial abuses. His impact was global and Canada was not immune from experiencing the repercussions.

Yet discrimination still persists today, manifested in racial harassment, employment preferences and sheer societal bigotry. Unfortunately, a stroke of a pen cannot eliminate accumulated prejudices perpetuated by generations of racial intolerance.

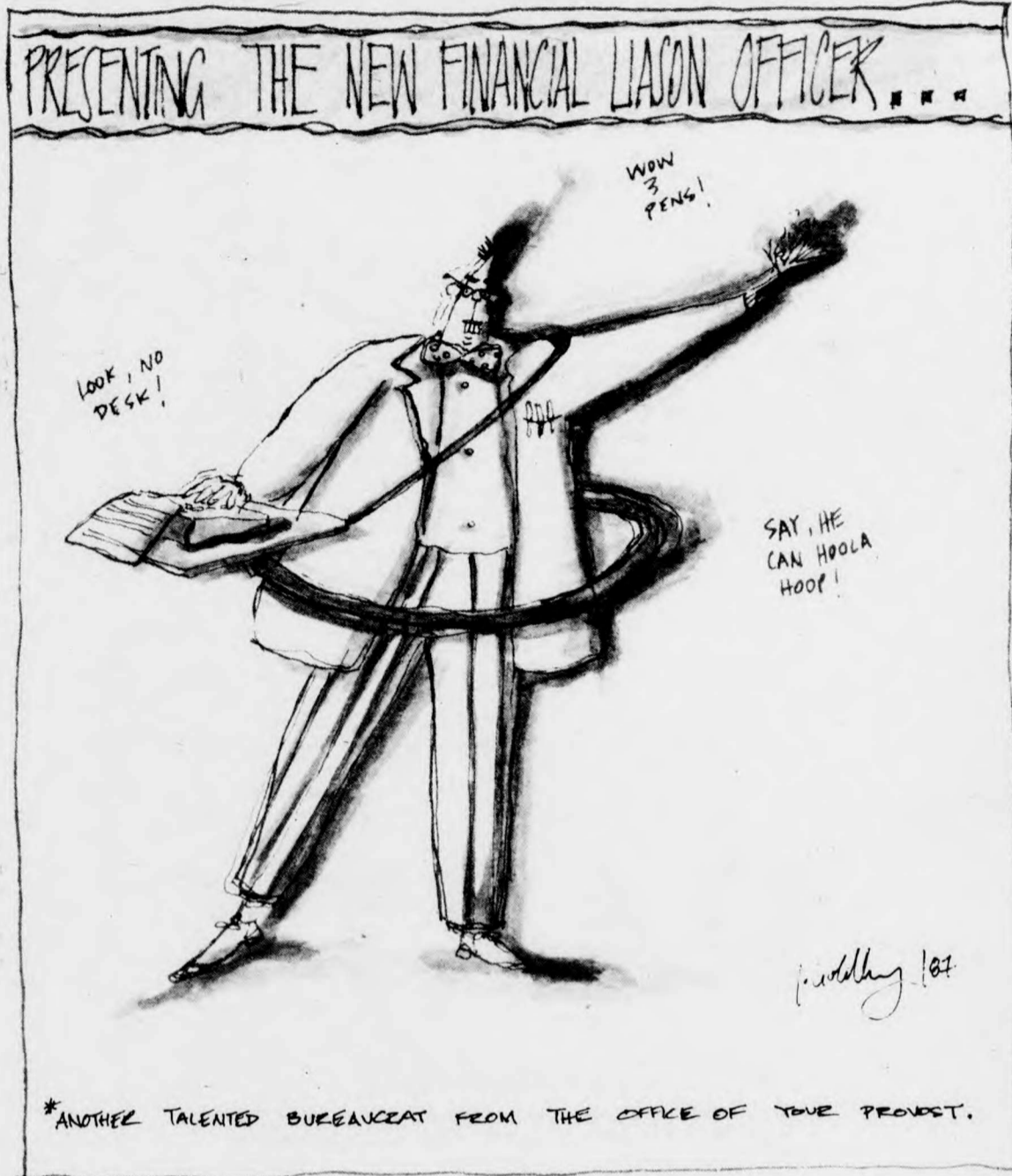
As demonstrated by the quotes above the stroke of a pen can certainly reveal the extent of bigotry which still exists on York's campus today. The report published by the Committee on Race and Ethnic Relations at York (available at the Provost's office) should dispel any doubts to the contrary. Included in the report was a survey citing a number of cases of racial discrimination on campus. Allegations against Professors who employ biased standards towards various racial minorities have been disclosed.

Exacerbating this problem is the overwhelming apathy of the York community at large towards the race issue. According to the report, six out of every 10 students have no opinion whatsoever concerning the University's policy against racial discrimination.

In contrast, some students seem determined to express their prejudicial sentiments on bathroom walls. The sad reality is that most people consider these transgression to be relatively insignificant. With these attitudes in mind, it becomes mandatory to employ a policy which will protect against such racial discrimination and enhance racial interaction.

The recommendations of the committee are welcome suggestions. Through the re-articulation of York's human rights policy and the creation of an Ethnic Relations Centre, the rights of York's minorities can be secured while educating the community at large about the detrimental consequences of racial discrimination. The role of the committee, in raising public awareness, will be crucial in the undermining of attitudes which perpetuate prejudices at York.

The tragic death of Martin Luther King in 1968 demonstrates the fragility of racial harmony. Unfortunately, despite our best intentions, it is difficult to change the ingrained attitudes of people. Dispositions of apathy, however, must be altered if we are to safely protect our racial minorities on campus. Reverend King's dream faced many obstacles. Fortunately indifference was one impediment he managed to overcome.



Letters

The Plain Truth

Editor,

I am sick and tired of the petty issues your paper deals with. Who cares about the Yeomen and their silly competitions. As far as I'm concerned with a name like that, they should have Mickey Mouse on their uniforms as their symbolic mascot. Anyhow wasn't it Mickey who said, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." I think it's time that some Mickey advice be suggested to our fine athletes.

And what about the news department? Who cares about a Safety and Security Director with prejudicial sentiments? Who cares about a Multicultural Festival where you can gorge yourself on ethnic fastfood, and then down a bottle of Pepto Bismol while claiming what a cultural experience that was? Who cares about university underfunding and overcrowded classrooms?

There are more pressing issues all around us, issues which *Excalibur* believes they can ignore. What about Armageddon? *Excalibur* probably thinks that their presses will still be rolling about those trivial issues after the great nuclear holocaust and then Rob Castle can give us a great perspective on the catastrophic event. He'll probably give us some insightful advice on how now is the time to re-organize our student government.

And finally, there is that fine Arts department which runs more movie reviews than the *Sun*. Boy, was I excited to go see the Marxism play down at Queens Quay after reading that fabulous Kardash review. Too bad Walt Disney was on.

To end off, I will give *Excalibur* this advice: Forget it. Your mandate has dissolved before your very eyes. It's high time York students begin reading *The Plain Truth*.

Paul Baptiste

Silver responds to harsh criticisms

Editor:

In response to the rebuttals published in your December 4 issue concerning my letter of November 27: Ronda Drash and Phil Drash separately complained that I failed to pick up much accurate information at Mr. Levy's Nov. 18 discussion.

If they had bothered to read my letter carefully, perhaps they would have noticed that my letter began "Editor: concerning your November 20 cover article..." My information clearly is from that article, and if there is any distortion of truths, then the fault lies with its author and/or editor. But since there were no angry responses concerning the integrity of the piece, I will assume for now that it was not a distortion of actual facts. Wherein may I myself then be accused of such things?

Ronda Drash writes that the purpose of Mr. Levy's organization "is to educate Jewish kids on the deceptive groups that claim to be 'the true face of Judaism,' NOT to convert Christians (incidentally, Judaism does not believe in missionizing to others of different faiths!)"

Yet in the *Excalibur* article, Kevin Bray writes that Levy's group "tries to win back Jews who are members of Hebrew Christian groups..." How is it that this is not equitable to

missionary work?

In going over the article, the letters and in taking up David Abitbol's invitation to speak to him face to face, the defence seems to be: they are already Jews, therefore in winning them back there is no conversion. When I asked David Abitbol what the ultimate goas was of the Jews for Jesus, he explained bluntly that it was to convert Jews into Christians. In which case, members of Jews for Jesus are, in faith, Christians. Jews for Jesus may believe in "the unification of Christianity and Judaism," but clearly the objective is to make Jews become Christians. After all, the group is funded (according to the article) by the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

Phil Drash goes on to criticize me for not understanding Levy's organization from its name alone: Jews for Judaism.

Is judging a group on its name alone truly a sign of intelligence? Perhaps for people such as Phil Drash it is. Yet the *Excalibur* article itself obviously provides reason to believe that Levy's organization is more than just what its name describes. Drash suggests that I 1) listen, 2) think and 3) write. This is wise advice, Phil, but perhaps you had better practice what you preach. (In which case you better learn how to achieve step 2).

Therefore if, as Ronda Drash states, Judaism does not practice missionizing to others of different faiths, then of course there is hypocrisy! And concerning my use of the term "totalitarian wimp": those who would have missionary groups abolished for reasons of ideology (Levy's talk was sponsored by the "Anti-Missionary Committee") strike me

cont'd on p. 7

EXCALIBUR

Editor	Lorne Manly
Managing Editor	Paulette Peirol
News Editors	James Flagal, Zena McBride, Jeff Shinder
Arts Editors	Angela Lawrence, Kevin Pasquino
Features Editor	Laura Lush
Sports Editors	David Bundas, James Hoggett
Art Director	Janice Goldberg
Darkroom Manager	Alex Foord
Ideological Mascot	Ryan McBride
Staff	Luis Aguila, Alexander Alekhine, Babak Amirfeiz, Loren Arduini, Sujata Berry, Gary Blakeley, Mel Broitman, Jose Raoul Capabianca, Joe Carter, Rob Castle, Roberta di Maio, David Dollard, Juan Escobar, Greg Gagne, Romy Gold, Christine Gomes, Theresa Grech, Karim Hajee, Susan Hilton, Jay Howell, Steve Isenberg, Lewie Jordan, Adam Kardash, Ken Keobke, Stan Klich, Nick Lapicciarella, Emmanuel Lasker, Nick Lorusso, George Mathewson, Sean Matthews, Bonnie Mitten, Gail Morgenstern, Paul Morphy, Lisa Olsen, Jennifer Parsons, Nicholas Power, Wendy Quinton, Ben Rafael, Liz Reyes, Minto Roy, Lesley Sipos, Boris Spassky, Cathy Sturm, Paula Torneck, Edo Van Belkom, Andrew Vance, John Wen, Stephen Wise, Wyndham Wise, Meiyin Yap, Paula Zarnett
	(... and Bobby Flagal as The Beaver)
	(Chess Greats Week was brought to you by the Philidor's Defense Fund; Coming soon: Famous People with X's in Their Name Week)
Board of Publications Chairperson	Kevin Connolly
Advertising Assistant	Patty Milton-Feasby
Typesetting Grump	Stuart Ross
Advertising Manager	Merle Menzies

EDITORIAL: 736-5239
 ADVERTISING: 736-5238
 TYPESETTING: 736-5240

MAILING ADDRESS:
 Room 111, Central Square
 York University
 4700 Keele Street
 Downsview M3J 1P3

