

LETTERS

Excalibur cartoon insulting to volunteers

To the editor,

I am writing to express my disgust in reaction to Peter Roe's cartoon that appeared in the Feb. 11 issue of *Excalibur*.

This cartoon depicts two figures walking away from a sign denoting the Office for Persons With Disabilities (OPD) volunteer slogan "Feels Sooo Good to Volunteer," with one figure commenting, "Feels even better to get paid."

This cartoon offends me as a person who is a recipient of the services that OPD provides through their volunteer program and as a volunteer with the program myself.

My feelings arise out of the apparent ignorance of *Excalibur* staff about the need for volunteers in our society. I am confident that if the *Excalibur* knew what went into the concept behind volunteering and volunteers, they would not even think negatively upon it.

It saddens me that *Excalibur* fails to use originality. The OPD developed that saying to promote a positive attitude enabling them to arrive at a goal that is beneficial and rewarding for both parties involved. If *Excalibur* wishes to put that notion down, they should put it in their own words. Don't steal a positive slogan for negative humour.

Furthermore, I object to the distasteful way the cartoon belittles volunteer work in favor of work that is financially compensated. Volunteering gives me the type of satisfaction that is financially immeasurable. Moreover the satisfaction and good feelings I get from knowing I helped someone else will be with me for a lifetime. I must say I don't think I can elicit the same lasting feelings from money.

As a disabled person, I have often relied on different volunteer organization to uplift my quality of life in different ways. Without those organizations I could not have become who I am. So when people like Peter Roe decide to insult the very idea of volunteering, in the interest of

humor or otherwise, it is my opinion that he is slamming my very worth and existence and the existence of those like me.

I will continue to believe in and

use volunteer services in the future, here at York and elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Laurie Alphonse

Excal cartoon undermines the efforts of volunteers

To the editor,

Again it seems that your cartoons are in less than good taste. I refer specifically to the "For Pete's Sake . . ." entry in your Feb. 11 issue. Feels sooo good to volunteer! . . . Feels even better to get paid. Hmmm.

The content of the cartoon is itself questionable. There are many who are quite proud to volunteer for various organizations feeling that they are doing good work in an area which would otherwise suffer.

Volunteer organizations rely on the fact that there are those who have at least some concern for others. The incredible selfishness of the cartoonist has managed in one picture to patronizingly undermine the efforts of an increasingly large portion of our population — volunteers.

What is truly repugnant, is that this is actually a parody of a slogan

used by the Office for Students With Disabilities at York. Maybe your cartoonist should take a lesson in humor, because this is way off base. It is not funny to point your 'sharp edged wit' at groups which are already struggling to fight a system which grants rights and privileges based on conformity to some obtuse standard, which they call normality.

You know what is really funny? That you too have been sucked in by the narrow norms, fighting for those who feel they have won the right to dominate disempowered groups.

I'd perhaps say "Go pick on someone your own size," but volunteers have proven themselves to be far bigger than the smallness which you have displayed in printing this cartoon.

Elissa Horscroft
YFS Equality Commissioner

Perestroika bloodshed

To the editor,

The Gulf war dominates the media headlines and is on our minds daily. This is an opportune time for Gorbachev to do his bloody deeds. The 1990 Nobel Peace Prize was given to a man who does not deserve it.

In Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, blood is being spilled, the blood of those whose restless thoughts are set for freedom and democracy.

Since the new year, 16 Lithuanians have been reported dead, hundreds injured and at least 50 missing. Lithuanians fear a repeat of the 1941

en-masse deportations to concentration camps in Siberia in the dawn of a democratic age.

One asks if this is possible today? Western governments are investing their energy in the Gulf Crisis; they devote little time to the Baltics.

While the back of the Western world is turned, Gorbachev will continue to call the shots.

Communist leader Mikhail Gorbachev sets the standards for his policy of perestroika — it proves perestroika includes BLOODSHED!

Ann Stanevicius

Support troops against tyranny of Hussein

To the editor,

I don't believe in war. I don't believe in people being hurt, or dying. I don't believe in destruction or murder. I am a humanitarian who believes in love and peace. I AM ANTI-WAR, but I am more 'anti' the tyranny, aggression, genocide and violent threat that Saddam Hussein stands for.

Are we, as Canadians, naive enough to think that by not joining the war, we are being peaceful? Do we think that allowing Saddam Hussein to seize control of the world's oil, and hence, of the global economy, we are "letting freedom reign?" Is it democratic to support a family of nations that ruled that the aggression of Saddam Hussein must be stopped, even by force, and then refusing to support that effort? Is that peaceable? Or is it cowardly and selfish?

And where does the ludicrous statement come from that "Canada has always played a peaceful role in world conflicts? During WWI, WWII and Korea? Brave Canadian troops joined in then, as they are doing now, to raise arms against a dictator that understood only force, and could only be stopped that way.

The claim that "this is not Canada's war" is just as unfounded, since Canada is a member of the United Nations who saw that Hussein threatened global security by seizing Kuwait, a leading supplier of the world's oil, with an obvious intention to continue into Saudi Arabia.

This war is obviously more complex than we are led to understand by the media. Those of us who believe in human rights must accept Kuwaiti citizens' rights as needing protection.

But beyond that, an international effort is being made to stop a man who has killed thousands of Kurds, who seized a peaceful neighbor, who threatened and then carried out his threat to attack an uninvolved country, aiming his missiles at civilian targets (an act of terrorism), and who would take over the world's supply of oil if no one stopped him. So are we protecting peace by not raising arms against Saddam Hussein?

We must support our troops who will be fighting a long and difficult war, putting their lives at risk to defend democracy, and who will suffer the traumas of war. They need to know that we are behind them, and that they are fighting in the name of democracy and peace. On this issue, we must support Bush and Mulroney. Then we can "let freedom reign."

Noa Mendelsohn

Readers disagree with Founders letter

To the editor,

We are writing to strongly disagree with the letter signed by John W. Currie, Founders president, and Marc D. Isaacs, Founders vp, committee, and addressed to Jean Ghomeshi, YFS president which appeared in your Feb. 11 issue.

In addition to the snide insinuation that some impropriety was involved in Ghomeshi's election as Campaigns Coordinator for the Ontario Federation of Students, the letter accuses the YFS president of implementing his own "personal and political agenda," taking positions on "major global issues" beyond his elected responsibility, and involving

himself in a "childish display of disrespect" to Brian Mulroney. These charges are totally without substance.

All elected representatives take political positions, whether explicitly or by omission. Presumably what Currie and Isaacs disagree with is Ghomeshi's commitment to social change and the defence of student rights, which he made clear in his election campaign. They also presumably object to his decision to involve himself in a personal capacity in opposing the Gulf war, which he has every right to do.

The charge concerning the PM is ludicrous since Founders Council helped mobilize residence students

for that very protest, which happily spoiled a Tory image-boosting forum.

When students face government attacks on education, and an imperialist war in the Gulf, one would hope that those on Founders Council could find better things to do than indulge in stupid political games. Their letter reveals the backward "personal and political agenda" of its authors, an agenda which is not shared by all Founders students.

Sincerely,
Grant Weir
David Camfield
Christie Neufeldt
Krissa Fay

Founders Residence Students

Small Business Management

Running your own business requires expertise in the areas of marketing, finance and administration. You'll learn them all from faculty members who have owned and operated their own small businesses successfully. Our small classes allow extra time for questions, discussions and personal guidance from faculty. Off-campus seminars and workshops offered through our Centre of Entrepreneurship provide you with additional expertise. It's all designed to help you become your own boss.

International Business - Co-op

Taking advantage of the opportunities in a global market is the primary focus of this program. Our combination of in-class theory and innovative co-op placements assure that you'll be well prepared for careers in international sales/marketing, custom documentation, purchasing/sourcing, traffic and transportation.

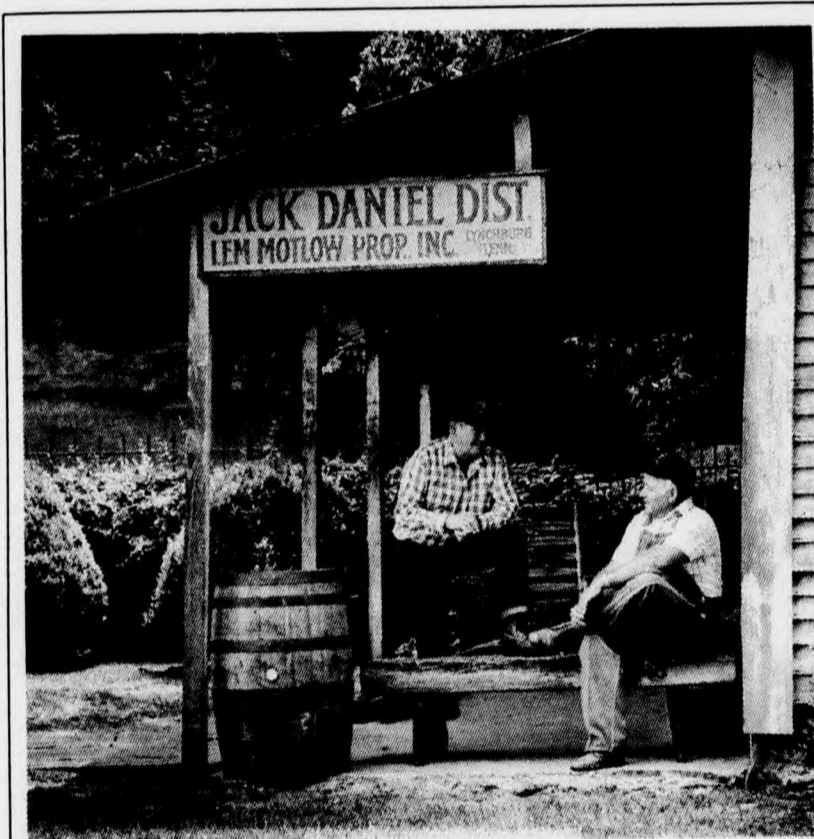
Operations Management - Co-op

The realistic production situations created in our AT Computer Lab are just one of the special features designed to assist students in their three 4-month work terms and beyond. That's where you'll take your expertise to careers in production planning and control, inventory management, purchasing, traffic and transportation, industrial engineering and quality assurance. Graduates are granted advanced standing in programs offered by prestigious associations throughout the province.

For more information on these or any full-time programs, please call 698-4172

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

If you'd like a booklet about Jack Daniel's Whiskey, write us here in Lynchburg, Tennessee, 37352 U.S.A.