

letters

All letters should be addressed to the editor, Excalibur, Room III Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.

Deadline Monday 4 pm

The Bible is not history

In his letter of March 8th, Ralph Mathews states that "Failure to acknowledge homosexuality as a punishable sin is sheer stupidity. History has pointed this out to us repeatedly. Are we too slow to learn, or do we simply ignore the warnings and continue to seek lust at any cost?"

In qualifying this statement Mr. Mathews mentions only one example, that of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Obviously Mr. Mathews has never taken up history, or he would know that The Bible is not classified as history, except by certain religious groups. It is therefore a dubious source of information with which to back up his arguments. He would also know that homosexuality has probably existed for as long as man himself (and I do not mean since Adam and Eve) and has been, if not accepted, rarely punished in most societies. If Mr. Mathews means that *The Bible* has demonstrated the evils of homosexuality, then he should clarify himself.

I am still waiting for California to fall into the ocean.

Page Willson

Gays capable of "highest" achievement

"Leave the fool's challenge unanswered, and prove thyself wise, or answer it, if thou wilt, and prove him fool." Prov. 26:4-5

This reply to a letter printed in the March 8th, 1979 issue of Excalibur (Vol. 13, No. 21, p. 7), attacking Gay rights, is dedicated to the Gay Community at York, and especially to those Gays who have been and are being oppressed by every form of religious tyranny and superstition.

In his letter of the 8th of March, 1979, Mr. Ralph Mathews implies that the one million plus homosexuals in Canada, and the ten million plus in all of North America will be destroyed by the Divine wrath. Somehow I cannot believe that Mr. Mathews' "God" is the same as the Divine Father of the gentle preacher of Nazareth two thousand years ago, who said, "I have a new commandment to give you, that you are to LOVE ONE ANOTHER..."

Of all the men and women who Jesus knew in His lifetime, the Gospels speak of Him having a physically intimate relationship with only one: John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved." In the simple gesture of John's devotion, recorded in the Gospel that bears his name, chapter 13, verses 23 to 25, is revealed the highest spirituality of the love of man and man.

Mr. Mathews asserts that "The gay question is not a matter of rights," and argues that "he or she has as many rights as the majority is willing to give him." There is, however, no question of the gratuitous assumption of rights by anyone. In a free society the individual

has certain inalienable and fundamental rights, regardless of the attitudes or prejudices of the mob, and one of these (the most important) is the absolute and unconditional right of the individual to independence of conscience, and self-determination, insofar as his actions do not compromise the equal right of each other individual in society.

Let us not forget the etymology of "moral", from mos, custom; and nothing is more fickle than the diverse customs of mankind, especially concerning sexuality. There is simply no evidence that "conscience" is in any sense inborn, let alone divinely inspired!

Mr. Mathews appeals to the judgment of history, but, while I find many homophobes killing, maiming, and making miserable the lives of countless homosexual men and women as long as we have existed, I find also the glories of classical Greece and Islam, and a multitude of Gay writers and artists, who may not prove the greater creativity of Gays, but who doubtless demonstrate that we are capable of the highest creativity and genius, which suggests in turn that we are not so utterly depraved (almost sub-human) as Mr. Mathews and his congregation would make us out to be.

Alexander Duncan B.A.

"Thou shalt not judge"

In response to the letter which you published in the March 8th issue, entitled "Another side of Gay Rights", I have found it quite offensive and narrow minded, to say the least. It has been quite common practice for people to quote Scripture whenever one disagrees with an issue, when in fact the individual using the quote has no knowledge of the Exegetical context of the quote.

I strongly advise the author of the letter to re-read Genesis 19:1-28. The story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Old Testament is most often used to show that God is displeased with homosexuals. According to many people and Churches, these cities were destroyed because people in these cities committed the "Sin of Homosexuality". But the Prophet Ezekiel, in another inspired book of the Bible, tells us that God was displeased with Sodom for a very different reason:

"Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty, and did commit idolatry before me... (Ezek 16:49-50).

To say that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for homosexuality is to misinterpret the Scriptures. The Bible says God destroyed Sodom because ten righteous people could not be found (Gen 18:32)

The use of the expression "bring these men out to us, that we may KNOW them", is the basis for most of the misinterpretation; yet the Hebrew verb (to know) used here is found 943 times

in the Old Testament and in only ten places does it mean sexual intercourse and each time it refers to heterosexual relations. The men of the city of Sodom broke the law of hospitality to strangers which was so religiously observed in their culture. In every other reference in the Bible (and there are many) the sins condemned are such things as pride and inhospitality. If homosexual behaviour was involved in the destruction of Sodom, why didn't the writer use the Hebrew word AHAKBH, which actually means homosexuality or bestiality, instead of YADHA which means "to know"? Even if the men of Sodom did make a homosexual attack upon the angels, the passage could only serve as a condemnation of rape and rape is sin under any condition, be it heterosexual or homosexual...

To close, I pass on a quote to Mr. Mathews, from Sayings of the Desert Fathers:

"And an old man said, 'Judge not him who is guilty of fornication, if thou art chaste; or thou thyself will offend similar law. For HE who said, "Thou shalt not fornicate," said also "thou shalt not judge."'

Duane Anderson

Creation vs. Evolutionism

On Wednesday, March 21, at 4 p.m. a presentation by the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA) is scheduled at York University in Curtis Lecture Hall B. This is a direct affiliate of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) which has for over thirty years worked at the challenging task of integrating scientific studies of the natural world with God's special revelation of Himself through the Bible.

It is commonly misconceived that personal acceptance of the Christian faith demands a concomitant surrender of intellectual integrity. Such a position envisages the Christian as a blindly dogmatic individual unable to objectively discern the reality of our modern and complex world. This misleading viewpoint has been, and still is, challenged by the ASA/CSCA. Their stated objectives are "to investigate any area relating Christian faith and science" and "to make known the results of such investigations for comment and criticism by both the Christian and scientific communities." Issues which have received attention from the organization included recombinant DNA research, psychosurgery, miraculous events, environmental degradation, overpopulation and the perennial creation/evolution controversy.

Dr. Dan Osmond, an associate professor of physiology from the U. of T. Faculty of Medicine, and the current president of the CSCA, will discuss the creation/evolution debate and share some ideas on the subject. ASA/CSCA members are firm in the belief that God is the Creator of all things, yet equally firm in denying that evolution could ultimately rule out God. Difficulty arises because "evolution" in the minds of many goes beyond a strictly scien-

tific understanding of possible mechanisms for God's creative and sustaining activity. They argue that accepting evolution at the scientific level inevitably stems from or leads to "evolutionism", a religious position antagonistic to Christian theism.

Interested faculty and students are invited to attend this presentation, and learn more about the CSCA and its purpose.

Elizabeth McKilay (Ma, Psychology)

Lance Nordstrom (Msc, Biogeography)

Simon won't appeal loss of acclamation

I have reconsidered my decision to appeal the decision of the Chief Returning Officer of CYSF, regarding the overturning of my election as Vice-President of University Affairs for the 1979-80 term.

No it is not a change of heart, perhaps a loss of heart. I have decided that in view of the fact that there are no other CYSF major elections this year, due to the recent withdrawal of Garfield Empey from the Presidential Race, that I will leave the CRO's decision standing. I will however not remove my vehemently expressed protest. I still believe strongly that the CRO's decision was wrong, unfair and a travesty.

Should I get a mandate from the students to act as their Vice-President of University Affairs, I will deal with that, in the unlikely event that this occurs, in a further statement next week.

Should I be defeated, I will continue to serve the York Community in my capacity as Co-ordinator of the York New Democratic Party Club as well as defacto Chairperson of the CYSF Policy Committee.

I will continue to stand against any abuse of the representative form that CYSF is supposed to act; I do have tremendous confidence in Keith Smockum that this will probably not happen in his term. Although I am the candidate endorsed by Keith, I am confident that he will be able to work with Donn Sugg.

I wish the members of the new council luck. They will find it frequently frustrating, seldom rewarding and will oftentimes want to resign. But for the good of the "distracted multitude" in the York student community, I urge them to hang on.

JON SIMON,
CYSF MCLAUGHLIN REP.

March 9th, 1979

Muggeridge comes to Burton

Malcolm Muggeridge, a product of the 20th century, is above all a man who has remained an individual.

A journalist and author of international repute, he has held

positions with many of England's leading newspapers. He became Moscow correspondent for the Manchester Guardian in the 1930's. A Fabian socialist until then, he and his wife had gone to the Soviet Union as pilgrims to see the classless society. He came to realize the dictatorship of the proletariat was a 'monstrosity...tumescence... meglaosaurian tyranny.'

During the second world war he was a major in the British Intelligence Corps. Later he became managing editor of PUNCH. Somewhere between that time and the present he became a Christian.

His career as a journalist demands that he be able to step aside from the world to see it properly. What he sees is fascinating:

"The darkness falling on our civilization is likewise due to a transposition of good and evil. In other words what we are suffering from is not an energy crisis, nor an over population crisis, nor monetary crisis, nor a balance of payments crisis, nor an unemployment crisis—from none of these ills that are commonly pointed out—but from the loss of a sense of moral order in the universe. Without that, no order whatsoever—economic, social, or political—is attainable."

He has been described as a man of unique character: razor sharp with passionate moral conviction, un-sentimental common sense, and appetite for sheer goodness, a noble capacity for disgust in the face of what is disgusting, and boundless mirth.

The York community is invited to hear Malcolm Muggeridge speak on "Integrity: Moral and Intellectual" on Friday March 16 at 12 noon in Burton Auditorium.

Kai Keskinen
York Christian Fellowship

Thanks from Harbinger

The entire Harbinger Collective would like to thank everyone who helped us with Awareness '79 week. A special vote of thanks to D.I.A.R., McLaughlin College, University Facilities, CYSF and Excalibur for the help that was given us in preparing and in presentation support.

We would also like to thank the organizations and people who gave their time to speak at the University during the week. Finally, thank you to all of you, the people who came out to the presentations.

The Harbinger Collective

Letters
Deadline:
Monday
4 pm



your student council

The Council of the York Student Federation Inc. is pleased to announce the three winners of the CYSF Bursary Award. They are:

Charles Siwale, Lauren Wilson and Tom O'Neill.

Each award is \$250.00 The criteria for the recipients is as follows:

- (1) Must be a constituent member of CYSF
- (2) Must have an average of at least "B"
- (3) Must be involved in extra-curricular, York University activities.

Congratulations to the win-

ners and best wished for continued success!

CYSF Classic Movies Series: This week a special presentation. The classic of classic movies for 1978 - National Lampoon's Animal House - CYSF members \$2.00 non-CYSF \$2.25. The movie is tonight, Thursday in Curtis Lecture Hall "I" and begins at 8 o'clock. So get there early.

CYSF Guest Speaker Series: On Thursday, March 15, 1979 Mayor John Sewell will be talking in the Bearpit at 1 o'clock. The topic of discussion will be the cutbacks in Toronto city's budget. For more in-

formation contact Cheryl Scott Vice-President External at the CYSF office 667-2515.

CYSF Typing Service: Don't forget your term papers typed at the CYSF Typing Service. Fast, efficient quality service that you can depend upon.

Located in Room 105D open six days a week.

CYSF and B of G election: Don't forget to vote today for CYSF Vice-President of University Affairs and for one position on the Board of Governors. Polls are located

throughout the campus, for more information contact CYSF 667-2515.

Submitted on behalf of the Council,
David W. Chodikoff
President,
Council of the York Student Federation Inc.



CYSF president David Chodikoff (left) with the winner of the council's second term bursary, Tom O'Neill.



David Chodikoff with (left to right) first term bursary winners Lauren Wilson and Charles Siwale and finance vice-president Gary Empey.