

Editorial

York's divestment a clear-cut contrast to U of T's waffling

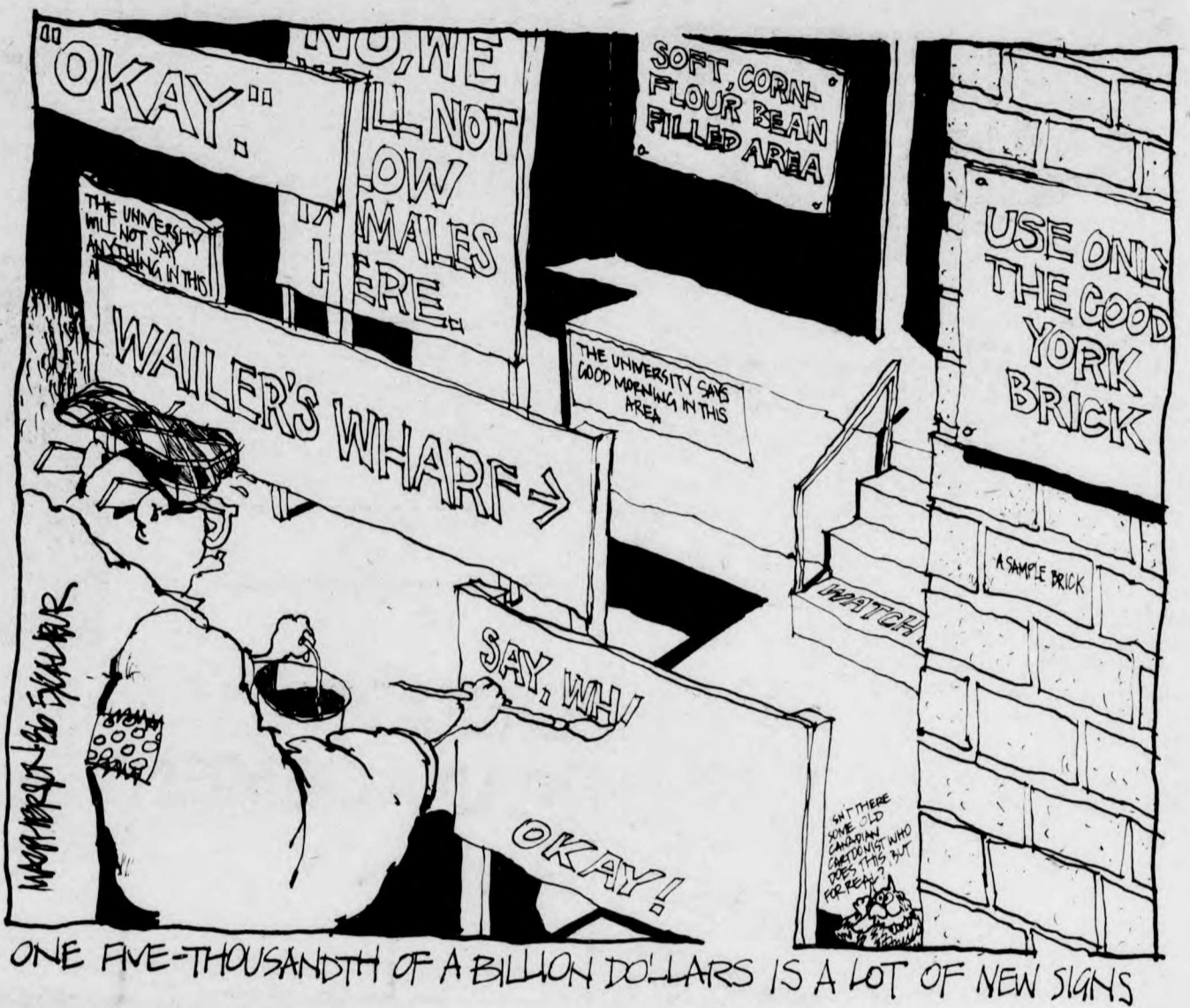
In light of the apartheid debate that has been raging since September at the University of Toronto, York's pro-divestment stand has been thankfully clear-cut. Together with McGill, which became the first Canadian university to divest from South Africa last November, York is now sending an important message to other Canadian institutions and government.

In contrast, the decision of U of T's Governing Council to virtually ignore widespread pressure from the U of T community to divest, by shifting the onus over to the federal government at its sadly flawed Code of Conduct governing South African industries is unacceptable.

U of T president George Connell asserts that "it is inappropriate and antithetical to our concerns as individuals to use Governing Council and the university as instruments to express our concerns." Firstly, this view implies that Governing Council need not be responsible to its constituents. Secondly, in the case of apartheid, when the various levels of Canadian government are so uncoordinated in their policies, it is up to the universities to provide leadership. As well, Connell's belief that universities should not express a definitive statement on divestment, is in U of T's case a convenient one. By not divesting, U of T is not placing itself in risk of any more financial hardship than it already endures.

While at York it is the employees of the university who are taking the most immediate risk by divesting their pension fund, the administration must still be commended for publicly endorsing divestment and taking the risk of being an innovator in the arena of social justice.

We can only hope that when the Trustees of the pension fund have the final say, the divestment will be unqualified, making York's position on apartheid a crystal-clear example to other Canadian universities.



Opinion

'Agents of Apartheid belong to defendants' section of the courtroom and must not be given forum'

By MUNYONZWE HAMALENGWA
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Talk about "right to freedom of speech" involving a representative of a system whose own system does not even allow rights to basic (freedoms) reproductive mechanisms for the majority of its citizens, not to mention rights to freedoms of a higher level (not basic) eg. freedom of speech! etc. If we did not know what Ambassador Babb of South Africa was going to say around Canada including Canadian university campuses, the argument of "freedom of speech" would hold. But Babb and all perpetrators and representatives of Apartheid have only spouted the most condensed and purest sentiments of racial hatred since 1948 and before. Not only have these sentiments been verbally expressed (expressing racial hatred here have gotten Zundel and Keegstra in trouble with the law), they have been physically expressed in the genocide of Africans at Sharpeville in 1960, Soweto in 1976 and the whole of South Africa in the past year or so, to mention only those well known incidents. In the past year alone, over 1,000 people have been gunned down by Apartheid when they have tried to express freedom of speech. So applying the yardstick of freedom of speech to Babb, who does not cherish this freedom when it involves 24 million Africans in South Africa (as opposed to one man here, i.e. Babb), is to stretch the meaning of freedom too far. It reveals the actual, but not expressed, sen-

timents of those who would grant Babb freedom of speech (which he does not value), i.e. their covert support for Apartheid. Their support of Apartheid is camouflaged by their legal expressions.

But let us play their legal game for a while before peeling away the legal cover to expose its essence. We will then come back to using legal arguments to show that legally Apartheid cannot be given freedom of speech. A person does not need any legal education or participation in advanced courses in democratic theory to know that right to freedom of speech is not a one-way track. This is so obvious that it does not need to be pointed out any more except that those who would give Babb freedom of speech to propagate racial hatred continuously flout this argument. As already pointed out Babb is not going to say anything other than what he has already said on numerous occasions, i.e. the righteousness of Apartheid—a genocidal violent, exclusive form of racial domination and privilege, the last bastion of its kind in the world today. Closer home, if right to freedom of speech was a one-way track, Zundel and Keegstra would not have been convicted for disseminating racial hatred. But like many other rights and freedoms, right to freedom of speech is subject to certain limitations.

Black's Law Dictionary puts it more eloquently: "Freedom of speech protected by the (U.S.) constitution is not absolute at all times and under all circumstances and there are well-defined

and narrowly limited classes of speech, the prevention and punishment of which does not raise any constitutional problem, including the lewd and obscene, the profane, the libelous and the insulting or "fighting words" which by their very utterance inflict or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace" (fifth edition, 1979, pp. 565-6). Apartheid is not included here but it should be clear that it is insulting to the people of African descent in general and to Africans in South Africa in particular. Apartheid is not only "fighting words," it is a fighting and violent system that has caused the death of thousands of Africans in South Africa and the surrounding countries. Wherever Apartheid is propagated, it not only causes immediate breach of the peace, it brings about permanent breach of the peace. Recall also that during the Zundel trial, there were lots of demonstrations about the courtroom which caused breach of the peace, showing that propagation of racial hatred should not be given freedom of speech as it incites racial conflict and breach of the peace.

International law has even gone further by holding that not only should apartheid not be given the right to freedom of speech, apartheid must be put on trial everywhere. Apartheid must not be given forums to propagate racial superiority. Agents of Apartheid belong to the defendants' section of the courtroom awaiting sentencing after obvious conviction for perpetrating crimes of apartheid and genocide and not on posh platforms

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Letters

'Quite disgusted' by shutterbug's class-crashing: fan

Editor:

In reading the article on Objectivism in this week's *Excalibur* (p. 12), I find myself quite disgusted by that small group associated with your fine newspaper who

continually are involved in "bad journalism."

I'm looking at a picture of Prof. John Ridpath who is reportedly, "giving a lecture on Objectivism sponsored by the York Objectivist Club." I recall this event was not sponsored by the York's Objectivist Club—it is a lecture on the history of Philosophy. As well, it has absolutely nothing to do with Objectivism. What's more, Prof. Ridpath

is not even lecturing! He is posing for Michele Dawson, who found it necessary to interrupt our class so that she could shoot some photos. Prof. Ridpath probably does not appreciate being forced to stop in mid-lecture, I don't appreciate this attempt to disguise reality. Most people wouldn't know, but can you imagine how ridiculous this looks to those who do?

John White