

Proposed contract clause is far too harsh and restrictive

What should have been a technical mundane negotiation between the York administration and Radio York, over the writing of a formal contract, has erupted into controversy. The furor was caused by the administration's attempt to establish parameters that may restrict the station's journalistic freedom. The station, guarding the sanctity of their editorial expression, is justifiably incensed.

Section 37(iii) of the administration's draft agreement to CHRY states "after a decision of the university Discipline Tribunal that the Radio corporation or its directors or officers have been guilty of conduct deemed by that Tribunal to be prejudicial to the interests or damaging to the reputation of the University," the University reserves the right to withdraw both the station's office space and funding. In essence, a discipline tribunal, appointed by the administration, is assigned the power of arbitration over CHRY's editorial policy. To make matters worse, CHRY's conduct is held hostage to guidelines far more stringent than those applied by the CRTC to non-student radio stations. Non-compliance, in the most extreme cases, may result in eviction and the loss of vital funding.

The administration cites a number of reasons in defence of its position. The discipline tribunal will be comprised of an equal ratio of students and faculty; the administration will not be represented. To a certain degree this will prevent the administration from flagrantly violating the working of the provision. It is highly unlikely that a board of students and faculty would censure the radio station for responsibly criticizing the administration. So, the administration claims that the contentious clause has a deterrent purpose, rather than a censorship function.

Provost Tom Meininger feels that a strong conduct provision is necessary to maintain CHRY's conformity to community values. As examples, he raises the exclusion of racism, sexism and bigotry from the airwaves. Yet the prohibition of "conduct prejudicial to the university's interests or reputation" exceeds the guidelines needed to uphold the administration's objective of maintaining "community values." Why are standard legal and CRTC stipulations insufficient in the context of a university radio station? According to Meininger, a university radio station, which represents a community on the "cutting edge," must be subject to stricter guidelines.

Perhaps the administration's argument would be stronger if it concentrated on the inexperience of the radio station staff. Many campus radio station employees have little or no knowledge of the legal intricacies of libel, defamation of character, or invasion of privacy law. An inexperienced broadcaster may inadvertently entangle the radio station in some form of lawsuit. Since the courts recognize the radio station as a student activity, the University is held ultimately responsible for all its actions. The rule of litigation being to go after the deepest pocketbook, the University could conceivably be included in any civil action launched against the radio station.

Administration fears about legal problems, however, do not justify the overly strong wording of the controversial clause. The sentence restraining the station's conduct, must be revised in a manner consistent with University's objectives. Stipulations in the formal agreement demanding CHRY's compliance with standard communication and civil law and CRTC guidelines would suffice to alleviate the University's fears. Certainly, the threat of lawsuit, is a deterrent effective enough to restrain the radio station's conduct.

The administration, in its zealous attempt to prevent legal difficulties, was insensitive to CHRY's concerns as a media outlet on campus. Journalists are particularly proud of their responsibility to, in an objective manner, provide a counter to the powers that be. Curtailment of this function strikes at the media's essential purpose.

To allay CHRY's fears, the selection process for the disciplinary tribunal should be changed. Each side, subject to the other's approval, should select half the students and faculty to sit on the tribunal. The radio station, would receive a guarantee that the provisions about is conduct not be exploited to its detriment. A revised selection process would make it easier for the radio station to accept necessary standard guidelines to its conduct.

Most importantly, the inclusion of an appropriate guideline for CHRY's conduct, will entrench the principle of journalistic freedom on campus. A university that thrives on the interplay of ideas deserves nothing less.



"Sorry, son. I just turned 65 yesterday, and I'm suddenly incapable of answering any of your questions."

LETTERS

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Hopper a hero of the revolution

Dear lads of the Liberty Coalition,
What brilliant work! And to think that you've convinced everyone that you're right wing fanatics!

Of course, you and I know that by keeping the West from supporting the moderates who favour black majority rule (and advocate sanctions as the last nonviolent alternative), you radicalize an opposition which will, of course, ultimately succeed. With no tangible support for—and therefore no voice in—the opposition beforehand, the West will have no voice after the revolution either. A Communist state in Southern Africa will then be assured, thanks to you, just as a Communist state was assured in Nicaragua.

Keep up the good work!

Your comrade,
Kay G. Bee

Hopper's gang should join Ollie and Oral

Dear Editor,

Members of the Liberty Coalition apparently feel persecuted by hordes of "kindergarten" students who shout back at them. They also, apparently, feel wronged because they have to live in Canada, a "socialist" state that actually forces its citizens to pay taxes to support, among other things, such luxuries as Parliament, the police, and prison guards.

I have a suggestion for the members of the Liberty Coalition. Why do they not apply for political asylum in the United States? Their hero, Ollie North, still has some influence in Washington, and he may be able to do something for them. but they should hurry since Reagan has only one more year in office.

Even if they cannot obtain political asylum, however, they could

attend a private, capitalist institution of higher education in the United States. That way they would not be subjected to the low, government-subsidized tuition rates at York. Oral Roberts University, an institution committed to right wing values, might be a good choice. (True, even private US schools do accept government aid in the form of student loans, but men of the Liberty Coalition, who claim to represent the views of the American people and the American government, could campaign against such loans).

Of course, the men of the Liberty Coalition may not be able to afford tuition rates at private US schools. In that case, they might consider attending one of the many mercenary schools in the US that have trained the Contras. It would certainly be more in keeping with their principles to do so, than is reaping all the benefits of a socialized education whilst criticizing socialism.

Sincerely,
Jacquelyn Eiselt-Wehtje

YAA lets down 'Hopperites'

Dear Editor,

I write to you on behalf of York Against Apartheid (YAA). We urgently request your assistance.

To the disappointment of other groups on campus like the "Liberty Coalition," the YAA has risen to even greater heights, with close on two hundred members. We regularly have a table in Central Square to distribute information and to sell buttons and Tee Shirts, and have also organized public meetings, video and film shows.

It seems that our standing on campus has risen to such an extent that we have come to bear the brunt of a campaign to undermine us. Evil hate literature was dropped into our locker last term. This term the locker was broken open and our material taken—cash box, banner, T-shirts, printed cloth, books, pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, stickers—

EVERYTHING! Gone. We need HELP to get back to normal and re-stock our publicity material.

We are determined not to let this despicable act put us behind in our struggle to support the fighting people of South Africa. Victory will be ours, that is certain, and we pledge to redouble our efforts. To do this we need money to pay for new material and for speakers to come to York, for film rentals etc. colleges, clubs, individuals—Please help if you can.

Make cheques payable to: York Student Movement against Apartheid, and sent to: Amanda Serumaga, 29 Fourwinds Drive, No 11, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1K7.

Hopper's 'state' questioned

Editor,

In Mr. Hopper's specious argument (Letters, "Soviet Jewry Week 'Callous'"), it seems he is very familiar with the views and concerns of the JSF, but we know (by asking) that he has not spoken with them concerning the purpose of "Soviet Jewry Week."

We were hesitant to respond; in fact quite concerned with his state of being. With the potpourri in his letter of "hence's" and "therefore's," etc., he could argue almost anything out of existence.

Sincerely,
Michael Morgan &
Phillip Piltch

Hopper letter 'inane, ignorant'

Dear Editor,

Re: Greg Hopper's letter of Jan. 21.
How does one begin to respond to what clearly ranks as one of the most inane and ignorant letters ever printed in the *Excalibur*? Well, I guess I'll go about this unpleasant task on a point by point basis.

Greg Hopper makes the following

cont'd on page eight

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