

LETTERS

Former provost defends York President's position

To the editor,

Mr. Stathis, I have read with considerable dismay your article on the presentation to Mr. Mandela of an honorary degree awarded by York University. Although presented as a lead item under the news section, your article is in fact opinion from beginning to end. Moreover, your opinion is an uninformed personal attack on the president of York University.

As provost of the university from 1984-89, I worked closely with President Arthurs, and for him. The extent to which my views express bias I am content to leave to those of your readers who know me, and many will.

Soon after taking up his presidency in early 1985, President Arthurs took personal leadership of York's response to the question of investments in South Africa. Simply put, and with some disagreements and protests along the way, but always with extensive discussion with those at York actively concerned with the issue, he promptly brought York to a position on divestment that caused us to be at the forefront in the Canadian university community.

President Arthurs similarly took resolute positions on related questions such as the participation of South African entrants in tournaments held at the Tennis Centre on campus, on financial support for study at York of nominees of the ANC, and on other matters. York could and did award an honorary degree to Mr. Mandela with its head held high, as Mr. Mandela himself acknowledged by accepting it. Your slight thus is not only against President Arthurs — it is against this community. And as a member of this community, I am deeply offended by your article.

But there is more to it than that. My position in the university kept me in close, frank and (I like to think) honest relationships with your predecessors. If I might be permitted to say so, I was proud of *Excalibur* and the quality of its coverage and its writing, and the important role in the building of the York community.

You have, in my opinion, disgraced this tradition. You have let yourself express a vile, personal opinion with no evidence whatsoever of thought or research, including the files of *Excalibur* itself.

I know that I am expressing my opinion. But I'm putting it before a jury — your immediate predecessors. If my response is ill-informed or inappropriate, they will tell me. If they share my concerns, I hope they tell you.

Sincerely,
T.A. Meininger
Associate Professor
cc: Graham Thompson, Editor,
1984-85

Elliott Shiff, Editor 1985-86
Lorne Manly, Editor 1986-87
James Flagal, Editor 1987-88
Adam Kardash, Editor 1988-89
Nancy Phillips, Editor 1989-90

Bethune residence band shell

To the editor,

To Deborah Hahn, Manager, Hospitality York:

I am a student who has lived in Bethune residence for the past five school years. During this time, I have experienced many instances of inconsideration toward residence students and have, perhaps, become resigned to them. However, the complete lack of consideration displayed by Hospitality York toward the well-being of residents this July 1 cannot go without notice.

I watched a tent-like structure being erected adjacent to the Ice Arena the previous Friday. What are they doing over there, I wondered? My question was rather rudely answered on Sunday morning at 7:55am, when Bethune and Stong residences were subjected to a "sound check" for a rock concert that was to take place that afternoon.

I quote the residence contract we are asked to sign: "conditions in residence must be geared to allow students to study and to sleep uninterrupted. Such a quiet environment is the right of all students." An hour and a half of drum, guitar and saxophone checks from a 5000+ watt sound system does not seem consistent with your own policy. I suggest you adhere to the same rules that you insist students follow.

How loud was it? One resident called to complain, swearing it was the person below her who was "playing music so loud that my floor was shaking." Personally, I have never encountered any noise that permeated my room so completely as that sound system did. Hearing my television which was 10 feet away from me was not an easy task. The fact that this continued for most of the afternoon only exacerbated the problem.

Although I find continuing along this same track extremely therapeutic, I find it less than constructive. Here are some concrete recommendations for Hospitality York.

1. Somebody, anybody should stop and think "how will the proposed activities affect our residence students (or any other

group of students)?" Residents pay for their rooms and they have at least an equal right to their environment as outside groups who rent university space. Our money is every bit as good as theirs.

2. In this specific instance, moving the stage location would have helped. Simply pointing the stage away from residences instead of directly at them may have very well solved this problem. Preferably, however, moving such events as far away as possible from residences would be best.

3. There should be written, posted warnings to all residents informing them of any impending events. This common courtesy would allow residents to act accordingly when such an event is planned. This recommendation should not be treated as a solution to the problem. It should only be utilized if the other options are not available.

I look forward to a written response to this problem, whether some of my recommendations are implemented or you enact your own reforms. Either way this problem must be addressed.

Thank you,
Bill Lloyd
Don, Norman Bethune Residence

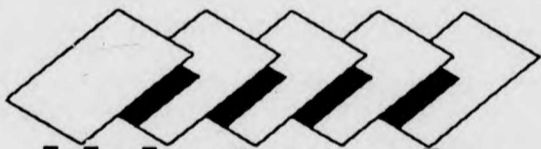
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If they came in every day, it would take Kelly and his teammates 10 years to eat every possible combination of an Ainger bagel or bread.

I hope they start soon!

109 Atkinson College

Mon.- Thurs. 8am - 9pm / Fri. 8am - 4pm



NIFTY IDEAS FOR RESITES:
(PART TWO)

INSTITUTIONS NICOTINE BIT

UNFORTUNATELY, TOMO WILL NOT BE SEEN FOR THE NEXT FEW STRIPS AS THE LEAD CHARACTERS—WHO WERE TO COMPLETE THE HILARIOUSLY-FUNNY "NIFTY IDEAS" STORYLINE—ALL SHARED A BOX OF JUICY NICOTINE BITS AND ARE CURRENTLY IN DETOX. ALAS, THE SHOW MUST GO ON. THIS SUBSTITUTE WILL DO FOR NOW...

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I'VE GOT YOU, BABE!!

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE'LL WAIT UNTIL THE BEFORE MENTIONED CHARACTERS ARE OUT OF DETOX.

WITH APPOLES TO F.W. CAMERON