

York Lanes coffee shop turfs students for studying

by Doug Saunders

The manager of the York Lanes shopping mall says he won't do anything about a cafe owner who threw out students for studying while they ate.

Two students told *Excalibur* they were asked to leave Company's Coming after they opened their books in separate incidents. In both cases, the students said they were paying customers.

Glenn Plummer, owner of the muffin and coffee franchise, refused to comment.

Jackie Macdonald, an undergraduate Arts student, said she was told "we want this to be kept a haven away from studying" before being asked to leave.

"While I was drinking my coffee and eating my muffin this man approached me," Macdonald said. "He said 'this isn't a study hall' and said he would prefer it if I left."

Macdonald said this made her wonder why the mall is located in the centre of campus. "If university is all about reading then I don't think other students are going to look at me reading here as being offensive."

The York Lanes mall is owned by the York University Development Corporation, a university-run company intended to bring private sector dollars into York's budget. YUDC's

other operations include the sale and leasing of campus land to private developers.

York Lanes Manager Robert Burden said he doesn't see any difference between the operations of York Lanes and any other mall.

"Shopping centres are comprised of individual tenants. We can't impose rules unless they are totally out of whack. The customer has a choice to stay or leave, to buy or not to buy."

Burden said that while he does not advocate time-limit policies, he sympathizes with the store owner.

"Maybe [Macdonald] gave him a hard time. There's two sides to every story. Maybe she deserved everything she got."

An undergraduate biology student who asked to remain unnamed said a similar experience made him question the university's priorities.

"I don't think this sort of thing should be allowed because it's an educational institution. That's what we came here for. [Plummer] is working for me, I'm not working for him."

Rob Castle, manager of the next-door Student Centre, said his building's food outlets welcome students studying.

"If someone has ordered a meal and wants to study, no problem. We all have to bear in mind that it's a university."



Excalibur was lucky to catch this student in the act of reading at Company's Coming

Alek Sharma

Castle said there is no reason why York Lanes could not operate in a similar fashion.

"We also have significant amounts of retail space and a food court, but I guess our fundamental way of think-

ing is different."

Macdonald said Burden should change the mall's policy.

"If the people who run this place realize this isn't the Promenade then they'll realize what it's all about —

we read all the time."

But Burden said the only way the Company's Coming policy would change is through market pressures.

"We have to use, shall we say, moral suasion, if you will."

Lack of women faculty in Sciences called "a disaster"

by Christine F. de Leon

York University has been hiring record numbers of women professors, but the Faculty of Science has shown little improvement.

Gill Teiman, York's employment equity coordinator, said York's record is one of the best in Canada. "The process for hiring women is working well and has achieved great results," said Teiman.

Between July 1, 1989 and June 30, 1990 York University hired women in record numbers in almost every faculty.

The most significant affirmative action hiring took place in Fine Arts

and Osgoode Hall, where 100 per cent of tenure-stream appointments were women. Administrative Studies, Arts, Atkinson, Education and Environmental Studies hired between 50%-57% women tenure-stream appointees.

But out of 7 new appointees in the Faculty of Science, only one was a woman.

According to Professor Ellen Baar, former chair of the York affirmative action committee, York has been "unsuccessful (in hiring women) in the Science Faculty."

The affirmative action committee works as a referral and monitor group to ensure women get support at the

hiring stage. But the onus is on each department to develop and implement affirmative action hiring for women, and the committee's referral can be overruled by academic presidents without reasons for decline, said Baar.

According to Baar, this marginalizes the opportunity for women to set precedents in faculties that are traditionally male-dominated.

According to a study conducted by Professor W.J. Megaw in 1990, Canada had only 4 women graduating with a PhD in physics that year, compared to 51 men.

Helen Freedhoff, physics professor at York, was the only woman teaching physics at the university level

in Canada until 1975.

According to Freedhoff, because very few women graduate with doctorates in physics, recruiting professors has been difficult.

"I would like to see more women in physics," said Freedhoff. "It (physics) is an untapped talent, and there is a problem if somehow you haven't reached half the population."

Out of all Science departments, Chemistry has responded the least to affirmative action hiring practices. "Chemistry is a disaster, we don't have a single female chemist," said Baar.

C. C. Leznoff, chair of the Chemistry Department, said he is aware there are no women in Chemistry and he has been trying to get suitable female applicants.

According to Dr. Leznoff, most of the faculty were hired in the 1960s and 70s when science was even more male-dominated. "But there is a higher female participation now at York," said Leznoff. "Of the 13 chemistry

graduates, 6 are female."

"The numbers of women are increasing," said Leznoff. "It's a more recent phenomenon." Women are just beginning to make breakthroughs in the sciences and it will take 6-7 years before we see more women in post-graduate studies, he added.

The federal government has established a new program geared towards female faculty recruitment through the National Science and Engineering Research Council, which pays salaries up to a maximum of \$30,000 and a research grant of \$15,000 for 5 years.

York's Chemistry department has recently sponsored 2 women through the program, but according to Leznoff the chances of acceptance are low. "There are 100 applicants across Canada in all science disciplines and only 20 women are chosen for the grant."

The university is required to supplement the difference of approximately \$11,000.

Universities asked to ban tobacco

by Krishna Rau
Canadian University Press

TORONTO — There may be another divestment battle looming on Canadian university campuses — this time over tobacco companies.

Canadian universities are considering following the example of their U.S. counterparts and divesting holdings in companies that manufacture cigarettes.

Last spring, Harvard University divested \$50 million of stock in tobacco manufacturers. The City University of New York, the largest university in the States, divested at the same time. Johns Hopkins in Baltimore divested in February.

There are also movements calling for divestment at the University of California, Cornell, Minnesota, Rice, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Yale and Wayne State.

"We should not profit from tobacco addiction," said Brad Krevor, executive director of the Boston-based Tobacco Divestment Project, founded in 1990 to help campaigns at universities, hospitals and other public institutions.

"These people (tobacco companies) are still denying that cigarettes cause cancer."

Health groups in Canada say insti-

tutions in Canada should be taking similar steps.

"Number one is the whole question of ethics," said David Sweanor, legal counsel for the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, one of Canada's largest health advocacy groups. "It's the only legal product that kills when used exactly as intended."

Jacques LaRiviere, the vice-president of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, refused to comment on divestment.

"That's a corporate decision. The comment should come from the (manufacturers) themselves."

At the University of Toronto, an advisory committee on the ethics of the university's investments is asking for input.

Rob Behboodi, an undergraduate student governor, has collected 300 signatures calling on the university to divest its holdings. Three hundred names are needed to bring such an issue to the advisory committee.

"There is clearly a question of hypocrisy involved because this university is so closely linked to so many hospitals," he said.

U of T treasurer Bruce Kerwood said the university's endowments and pension fund have one per cent of their investments — or \$12.5 million — invested in tobacco companies.

The university's board of governors can simply vote, on moral grounds, to divest the stock owned directly by the university's endowment funds — which Behboodi estimated at \$2 million — even if the university loses money on the deal.

Under Ontario law, the pension fund could only sell the stocks if it were financially advantageous. Staff and faculty pay into the fund, which is controlled by the university and administered by an outside trustee.

The provincial government voted in December of 1988 to allow pension funds to divest holdings in companies with investments in South Africa. But, there would have to be a similar law passed to allow divestment of tobacco companies.

Kerwood said he doubted such a change would be made. If the government were willing to make such a change, they might just as well pass legislation against the manufacturers, he said.

He also said the university had to be careful about divestment requests.

"You could end up divesting all of your portfolio if you carry it to an extreme. There will always be people who don't want you to invest in something."

But Sweanor said institutions

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Osgoode Group (cont'd)

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only two courses dealing with Canada's indigenous peoples.

On October 25 Osgoode Dean Jim Macpherson met with members of PALS and presented them with a letter responding to some of their demands.

In his letter, the dean told PALS to address their concerns to the appropriate administrative bodies.

Wedderburn called the letter a "diplomatic 'fuck off.'"

"The meeting was basically to anticipate our responses to his rejection of our demands. He wants to lose us in administrative brouhaha by having us go to these different committees," said Wedderburn.

In his letter Macpherson assured PALS of Osgoode's commitment to broaden its admissions base and promote "diversity in the ranks of the faculty."

But according to Miguna, "there is still total marginalization [at York] through White supremacist tenden-

cies. For example there is no mention in the York curriculum of the relationship of Africans and the law which sees Africans as chattel. The law is biased and racist and there is no respect of our history or struggle."

Associate Osgoode Dean Neil Brooks, when asked about PALS, said he wasn't up to date on the controversy. Brooks said he was unaware of the letter Dean Macpherson had written.

Brooks did point out that the dean's role is largely administrative. "The Dean has zero power in terms of who gets hired, curriculum or methods of grading. The Dean would have to go through the committees and then the faculty councils."

Miguna said he disagrees. "If [Macpherson] felt these demands were important he would do something."

The demands are necessary because "there is no active participation by Africans at York in the decision-making process," Miguna added.