

LETTERS

Let me put it this way: If a farmer falls into a pile of shit, it may not bother them, but it would probably upset an urbanite. See the comparison? (farmer=smoker: pile of shit=smoke: urbanite=non-smoker).

Sometimes must be done. Why should York's security soon have the right to use handcuffs on students, while they cannot even enforce simple bylaws?

What if students were to begin urinating in the hallways? Would anything be done, or would it just be considered one of those irritating things?

Yours sincerely,
D. Lawren

Stop talking Start doing

To the editor,

All around me I hear people saying, "The university should be recycling, eh?" and "they should be doing stuff about the environment," and also, "Marriott should be doing something about their waste."

I see very few people actually doing more than just talking.

As far as Marriott is concerned, they are very interested in recycling but do not want to start anything because of the university's work that is going on in that area. Marriott is a corporation very concerned with its public image and although they do want to recycle and reduce, they do not want to obstruct the university and its proposed plan.

The university's plan for recycling campus wide will take money, time and people. They have realistically set a tentative date in April or May for their system to be fully installed and operational.

So, people say, "why can't they get off their asses and do something faster?" To this I have to ask, "Why don't you get off your judgmental highchair and do something yourself!" It's not that hard.

I am sorry to say that I cannot talk of the well-established recycling program at Bethune, or the other grassroots projects at any of the other residences as I do not know much about them.

Neither can I elaborate on the things being done by the Faculty of Environmental Studies nor any other groups, but what I can talk about is what I have done at Winters Residence.

First, saying the environment is a top-40 trendy thing to do in the '90s, therefore many people are interested in doing it. With myself, I started a group, The Winter Greens, and although our main (some would say our only) focus is on recycling, I think it is better than doing nothing at all.

We recycle glass, tin, aluminum, newsprint, batteries, and plastics in our residence and college. Every Sunday (also to be added Thursday) myself and one or two other drivers take 16-18 large garbage cans to the Assiniboine depot. About eight of us work on Sunday and the whole operation takes an hour.

We have received support and modest operational funds from our college council, residence council, the Winters College Master, physical plant, and Housing administration.

There are approximately 30 people in the group and although we do focus mainly on recycling, our aim is to perfect our system.

You cannot do everything, so concentrate on one thing — stay small.

So those who are saying, "The university should be doing etc . . ." YOU are part of this university so why not become involved and stop all the idle talk. Of course some talk is needed, but don't get lost in all those words, act now.

Remember what happened to Hamlet?

Michael Valliant-Saunders
President, The Winter Greens

OPINIONS

York signatures for Lithuania

by Mark Stefanini

During the fall term, the York University Thomas More Society collected signatures in support of Lithuania's independence. Two thousand three hundred and eleven signatures were raised at York.

Aware beforehand of the likely outcome in Lithuania, members of the Society felt it was their duty to take a position in the face of public indifference.

The campaign in favor of Lithuania was conducted by a number of organizations around the world. The particular petition that the Thomas More Society participated in has been a tremendous success with over five million signatures collected in 118 days in 20 countries.

According to the 1989 Guinness Book of World Records, the largest petition to date is 3,107,000. The ease with which people signed was a clear indication of the amount of public sympathy there is for Lithuania and indeed all nations in its situation.

Thank you to all who signed in support.

Lithuania was once a free and independent country, united first as a nation under the Grand Duke Mindaugas in 1251. Throughout its history, Lithuania has been dominated many times by other nations. In 1569, Poland annexed Lithuania and afterwards, it fell under Russian domination from 1795 to 1915.

Lithuania was able to win its independence in 1918, but was subsequently recaptured on August 23, 1939. It was the sinister Ribbentrop-Molotov pact that destroyed its freedom this time. Hitler promised Stalin that he would not oppose the invasion of Lithuania by communist troops. Thus, Lithuanians became victims of communism and nazism.

On March 11, 1990, Lithuania declared its independence again, but was ordered by the Kremlin to nullify its declaration for two years. The

great majority of Lithuanians immediately perceived the emptiness and absurdity of this suggestion. Furthermore, some in the West tried to influence Lithuanians with advice that "it was better to give up a little so as not to lose all" in the face of Soviet pressure.

A two or three year interim would provide ample opportunity for the Soviets to place such a number of troops and their own subjects in Lithuania as well as to install many opportunists, fellow travellers and fifth-column elements into key positions that Lithuania would be unable to suggest independence, lest it expose itself to the harshest reprisals.

The Lithuanian government defied the Kremlin and would not recant on their democratic decision. Consequently, the Kremlin despots displayed their categorical disapproval by enforcing an economic blockade, stationing tanks and paratroopers in the capital, expelling journalists and seizing key buildings.

Last Sunday, Soviet troops massacred 14 people and injured about 140. Gorbachev claimed he did not order the murder of Lithuanian civilians, but for a man who has more power than Stalin one wonders.

In a recent appeal, President Landsbergis asked two things from the West. First, that those countries in the West which have never recognized the Soviet domination of Lithuania now recognize the democratically-elected government of Lithuania. Second, that they voice strong diplomatic protests against the bloody repression of the Lithuanian people.

Such injustice will continue unchecked if people in the West continually turn a blind eye. Fear or indifference on our part in the face of Soviet aggression will only lead to further concessions and to despair.

We have a moral obligation to help even if it is merely standing up and being counted among the signatures of a petition.

Campus Chronicles

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

Several UofT colleges scheduled end-of-term parties on December 6 while most people commemorated the murder of 14 women in Montreal a year ago.

Many students felt that the parties showed a careless and disrespectful attitude toward the tragedy.

Sandy Williamson, a member of UofT's Women's Centre Collective criticized the parties which demonstrated a disregard for the issue of violence against women.

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

Members of the Coalition for African Studies Preservation rallied to increase funding for the university's African Studies program on December 4.

A race relations committee was set up to provide an external review of the program, which suggested that UofT should not compete with the African Studies Program at York University.

Eliminating the program would mean that current students would not be able to graduate with their degree in African Studies.

The administration argued that there was a lack of student interest which justified the shortage in program funding.

There was also a need for qualified professors and teaching assistants.

UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

A \$6,000 scholarship will be established at Cape Town University by February 1991.

Some students are angered by this decision to promote rather than divest funds from South African education.

Kenyu Abdella, president of Western's African Students Association, believes that the university is addressing the apartheid problem the wrong way.

The South Africans themselves are asking for divestments Abdella said, because continued investments would be a display of support for the existing regime.

York, Wilfred Laurier and Queen's have partially or completely divested from South African companies and organizations.

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