

# Arthurs unlikely bearer of degree

by Peter Stathis

When Nelson Mandela came to Toronto's Queen's Park, he was honoured by many dignitaries including External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Ontario Premier David Peterson, Toronto Mayor Art Eggleton, and even York President Harry Arthurs. Some people argue that these four individuals were unlikely candidates to be addressing Mandela on behalf of Canadians. But, perhaps the most conspicuous of the speakers on that stage June 18 was our own president, who presented Mandela with an honorary law degree.

Before this spring, when York University still had investments active in South Africa, Harry Arthurs and the Board of Trustees could not be considered exemplary models of ANC support. The

campus group York Against Apartheid (YAA) had been lobbying the university to divest its interests in South Africa since 1986. Derek Lett, a YAA representative, said that YAA scored a major success this year when York divested its funds entirely by late March.

York Against Apartheid had been keeping up pressure at the local level even before Mandela's call for continued sanctions during his speaking tour. Lett admitted that by 1988-89, York was "moving slowly toward total divestment," but there was quiet hope that F.W. de Klerk's changes would be significant enough to allow York to re-invest in South Africa.

YAA tried to bring the issue back into prominence at this time. It gathered a petition of 300 names supporting complete sanctions, invaded the President's office, and held an on-campus protest on



York Against Apartheid worked to end the university's investments in South Africa. Its victory came shortly after Nelson Mandela's release. Above: Harry Arthurs presents Mandela with his honorary law degree at Queen's Park June 18.

February 27. The negative media coverage generated by YAA's lobbying efforts, left York blemished and in need of an appropriate reaction.

According to Lett, Bill Farr, VP (Finance and Administration) quickly came out in support of total divestment, accelerating the whole process. The final success came shortly after Mandela was released from prison, reflecting the profound moral pressure that his re-emergence created on York campus.

Lett, as well as numerous other York students, has said that Arthur's presentation of the honorary degree to Mandela was hypocritical, much like his acceptance and defense of the Sasakawa donation. Some students would have preferred anyone else to have conferred the degree, even a York undergrad, as long as it had not been Arthurs.

## Mandela visits Ottawa

# Protesters serve eviction notices to embassy

by Marc Brzustowski

On the day Nelson Mandela addressed the House of Commons, 34 people were arrested in Ottawa climbing over police barricades set up around the South African embassy in their attempt to evict the ambassador.

In stark contrast to the greeting Mandela received from such infamous anti-apartheid fighters as Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark, those who risked arrest outside the embassy that day were determined to greet Mandela by closing down the Canadian operations of the racist and criminal system that jailed him for more than a quarter century.

One ANVA member emphasized that complicity by claiming there was no South African embassy in Canada, but rather that the building in front of which they stood was the embassy of apartheid, the embassy of a criminal system, and should be dealt with as such. The same speaker addressed the need and obligation for citizens to risk arrest to shut down apartheid in Canada, noting that changes from the white regime would come not from the kindness of their hearts, but would only come when apartheid became impossible to maintain and enforce.

The implication was that, internationally, it was up to ordinary

helmeted officers, their night sticks drawn, descended on the metal barricades to keep more activists from attempting to serve eviction notices to the ambassador. The climbing of the barricades was preceded by an emotional wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the victims of apartheid.

The spectacle of the Canadian government's protection of apartheid was heightened by the arrest of a 10 year-old boy who climbed the barricade with his father. While the activists were arrested for causing a disturbance and obstructing police, all were released within six hours without charges.

Clearly, the political climate around Mandela's visit made it impossible for the police to lay charges against people arrested for resisting the racist, criminal system that continues to imprison him and millions of others in South Africa.

# York Space University

by Peter Stathis

"York supports Canada's membership to explore, understand and respect space."

- Harry Arthurs, President of York University

York campus is the site of the third session of the International Space University (ISU) running from June 23 to August 31.

ISU is a non-profit, non-governmental institution which gives graduate-level students advanced training in space studies.

Its long-term goal is to foster international cooperation and equip leaders for present and future space exploration.

ISU's multi-national, multi-disciplinary curriculum encompasses eight areas: space architecture, space engineering, space manufacturing, space life sciences, space business management, satellite applications, space physical sciences, and space policy and law. The courses are being taught by internationally-recognized experts in their field, many of them returning ISU faculty.

This year's ISU class will work on two special design projects: an international earth observation system to monitor changes in the global environment, and an asteroid mining project utilizing robotics. These are in addition to their already intensive summer schedule. The 134 students from 30 different nations will have to compress one full year of study (240 hours of lectures and seminars and 280 hours of design work) into 10 weeks.

During the Convocation and introduction ceremony held in Burton Auditorium on June 26, Harry Arthurs said that York has supported space science from the university's inception. One of the most notable space personalities is Mark Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut in space and a York graduate. Arthurs went on to say that the exploration of space required ethical, legal and political understanding as well as science and technology.

Bob Richards, a Canadian and one of the three original founders admitted that ISU is still a very young concept. In 1985, it was only an idea; but by 1988, that idea had attracted 104 students from 24 countries, and the year after, the numbers had risen to 124 students from 28 countries.

There is great optimism among the ISU students that this internationally-based institution

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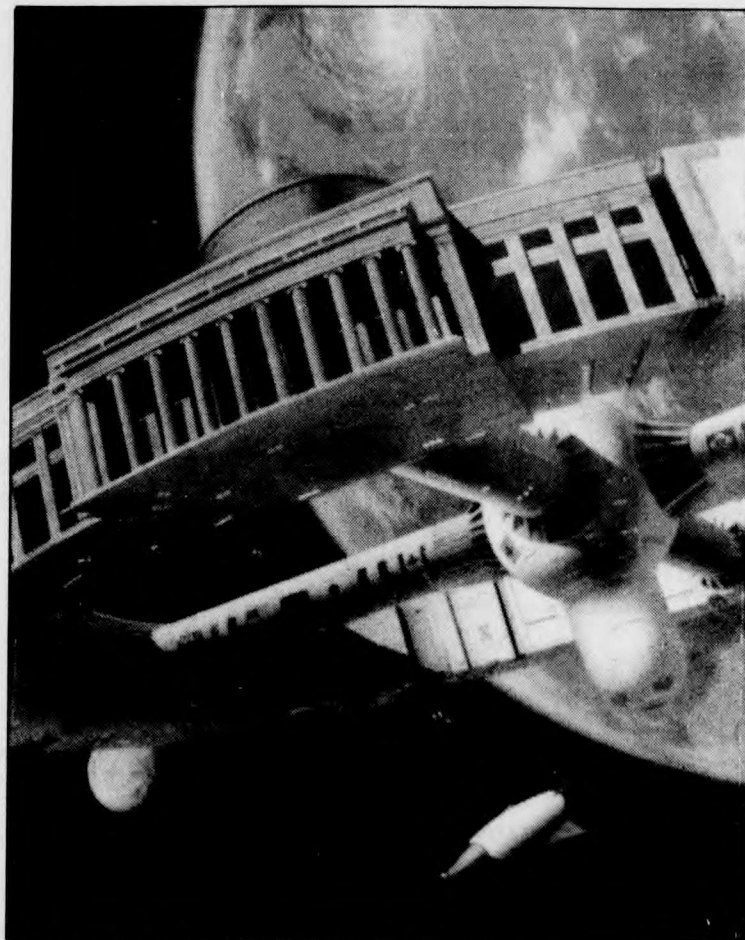


Over 30,000 supporters gathered at Queen's Park to greet Mandela in Toronto June 18. Similar crowds gathered in Ottawa the day before to rally around the leader and the ANC.

As Mandela sat in a government jet somewhere between Ottawa and Toronto, a group of over 100 people gathered behind the barricade set up by the RCMP and Ottawa police to "protect" the embassy from the non-violent activists. The eviction of the ambassador, based on the anti-war crimes amendment to the Canadian Criminal Code, had been in the planning stages for months, spearheaded by members of the Alliance for Non-Violent Action (ANVA) and members of Toronto's black community, but it was Mandela's visit that highlighted the Canadian government's hypocritical stand on apartheid and its complicity with that system.

people to make it impossible for apartheid to function and maintain itself through its network of embassies and consulates. Last summer, Joe Clark was questioned about the attendance of South Africa at ARMX'89, the largest weapons show in Canadian history. Clark maintained that not only had South Africa been invited, but that it had every "right" to be there, reasoning that they were a legitimate government with diplomatic representation in Canada.

Reflecting similar conditions under apartheid, the Ottawa police sent out the riot squad to meet the non-violent demonstrators. After a number had already been arrested, about 20 of the



Artist's conception of ISU's space campus.