

EDITORIAL

It was in 1976 when Tennis Canada established its national tennis centre on the York University campus.

Over the years, the centre has flourished, not only as a developmental centre for Canada's top tennis athletes, but also as a venue for hosting international events such as the Player's Open, the Player's Challenge and the Davis Cup.

It is because of this immense success that the centre has out-grown its present location on the north east corner of the campus.

According to Tennis Canada president Bob Moffat, York is a perfect site for the centre but its six acres is much too small. The centre's size is far below the average tournament venue size of 15 acres as is the stadium court's seating well below the average 13-15,000.

To alleviate the problem, Tennis Canada wants to expand its facility, and has considered several options, ranging in cost from \$15-70 million dollars.

While Tennis Canada has grabbed the attention of the York University Development Corporation, who sees the plans for expansion as a good thing for the university, the administration's reaction has been something less than enthusiastic. In fact, Moffat has said that the university administration has never shown much enthusiasm for the facility.

But why? Why is York not enthusiastic about giving Tennis Canada more land to expand its facilities? Land is not something that is a scarce commodity here at York.

According to York's legal council, Harriet Lewis, it would be a shame to lose the tennis centre's events to another location. The lack of enthusiasm, she says, is with the size and scope of the expansion. The university apparently does not know if it wants to give up that much of its land.

This is utterly absurd. What is wrong with having a tennis complex on campus similar to Wimbledon, or the United States' national tennis centre in New York. With a venue like this, can you imagine the turnout and publicity for such an event?

York is always talking about projecting an image, but what image are they trying to project here?

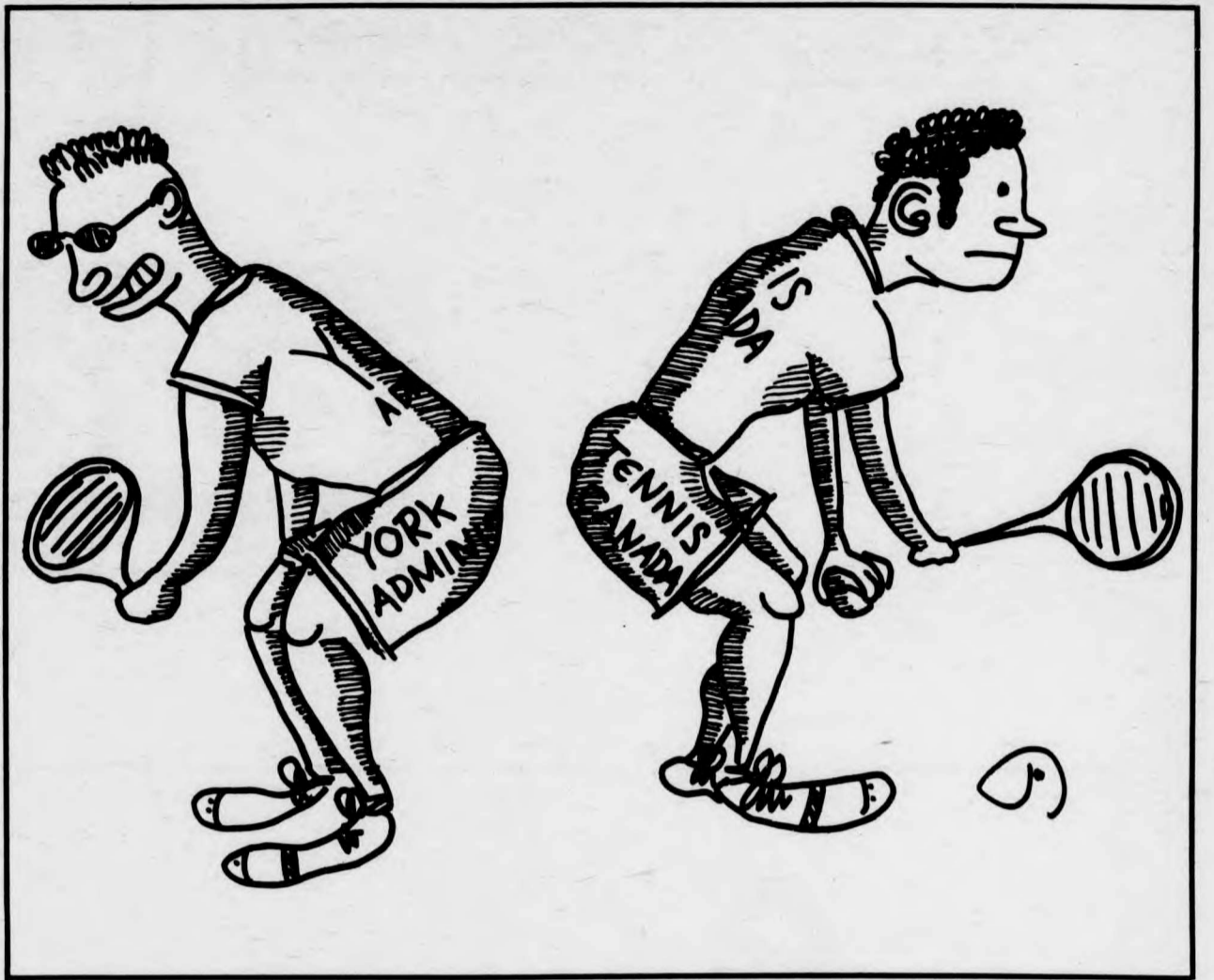
The university is currently undergoing a \$100-million expansion, but not one dime has been allocated to athletics. The last York-owned sports facility to be built on campus was the Tait McKenzie building and the ice arena, both of which were completed in 1968.

By denying Tennis Canada land to expand the centre, York will be the big loser. First, York will lose the chance to have a world-class venue on campus, which it will have access to as well. Also, think of the exposure the university will receive when the centre holds an event, exposure which York so desperately needs. All this would be lost.

If Moffat cannot get what he wants from York, then he will definitely take his act elsewhere.

York administration says it is Tennis Canada that has broken down talks, partly because of the failed Olympic bid which would have pumped big money into the university and the tennis centre. Tennis Canada says that the university has never been enthusiastic about the centre. Both sides seem to want each other, but why then is neither side talking?

It is about time both sides got their act together and started talking once again.



LETTERS

Excilbur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excilbur* staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Letter steps into bigotry

To the editor,

Re: "Can You Say Extremist?"
Monday, Nov. 5 Issue.

In his "criticism" of Faisal Kutty's article, Asher Levy went beyond the realm of objective criticism and stepped into the darkness of bigotry and religious intolerance. What, I fail to understand, is his point when he speaks of Saddam Hussein's behaviour in light of his alleged "relationship" to the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammed, peace be upon Him. If Levy's intention was to insinuate that Saddam's behaviour is that of the example of the Prophet, then let me remind him that Islam is a religion of peace.

Islamic peace and justice are obscured in the volatile politics of the contemporary Middle East wherein secular governments try in vain to live with their inheritance of a colonial legacy. Many purport to speak on behalf of Islam but a few have the credentials to do so. Religious history in general, bears ample witness to individuals who exploited it. Islam, regrettably is no exception.

So please, let's try to understand the politics of the contemporary Middle East in its perspective; much of the strife in this region is directly linked to economics (oil, Iraq, the U.S. and Kuwait), political authority (Lebanon), autonomy (the Palestinians) etc. and not to religion, though it is exploited as a cause.

We are proud as Canadians of the diversity of our backgrounds, religious and otherwise. Let's not use the present misery of the world (especially those parts that we relate to) to denigrate each other with innuendos and back stabs as Mr. Levy has attempted. For to follow his chain of thought

is to assume that the violence of the KKK is "inherent" to their "relationship" to Christ or to assume Mier Kahane speaks for Moses. (God's peace and blessing be upon Jesus and Moses).

Ebrahim H. Dhooma
President
Muslim Student Federation

PM visit embarrassing

To the editor,

I would just like the opportunity to congratulate the band of "social-conscious" students who participated in the multi-media embarrassment that was Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's visit to campus on Monday, November 5. There very well may be grounds for discontent with the current government; however, isn't it possible for people who are supposed to be (in the midst of becoming) educated to be a little more constructive than to pelt our PM (regardless of whether you like him or not) with wet, soggy, cooked noodles? There are undoubtedly much better ways in which to deal with issues on the national agenda. It's really too bad that York got coverage on four major television networks, three newspapers, and most radio stations, only to waste it on students lobbing linguini at the Prime Minister. I do however see the making of a wonderful rallying cry for the "social conscious"; DISGRUNTLED CITIZENS ACROSS THE LAND... LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND PLAY CARDS AND PICK UP A BOWL OF YOUR FAVOURITE PASTA!!!

Hoping that I'll be able to live down the fact that I attend school with people who throw spaghetti in their spare time,

Yours,
Martin Traub-Werner

GST good in long run

To the editor,

I am writing to you about the incident in the FAS building on Nov. 5 when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney came to speak to the business students.

The media is very powerful in shaping the way we view the world. They play to the emotions of the people by providing film footage that they perceive represent the mindset of the country.

In the evening news that night, the focus of the reports were the student demonstrators that threw paper and macaroni at the Prime Minister in protest of the GST and its effects on student loans and textbooks.

What failed to get on the air was Mr. Mulroney's concern for our future. The GST is not popular because people perceive it as an oppressive tax. But higher taxes are essential to keep the money available to subsidize our tuition and to keep providing us with quality education.

We are in danger of losing our transfer payments in the future because a larger portion of our dollars go to pay interest on the government debt.

Once the budget deficit is reduced, our government will become more flexible with the tax and transfer payments, but it needs time. The reality of the deficit will not go away by putting off its repayment or asking the present government to resign.

In the long run, we the students are the ones benefitting from the GST with a higher standard of living and better future opportunities.

Yours sincerely,
Alvin Tolentino

Attention shoppers: It's business as usual again so there will be a staff meeting this Wednesday at 4 pm.

EXCALIBUR

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Excilbur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excilbur* constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excilbur* staff or board member.

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