

Editorial

Removal of trophies a priority for CCGM

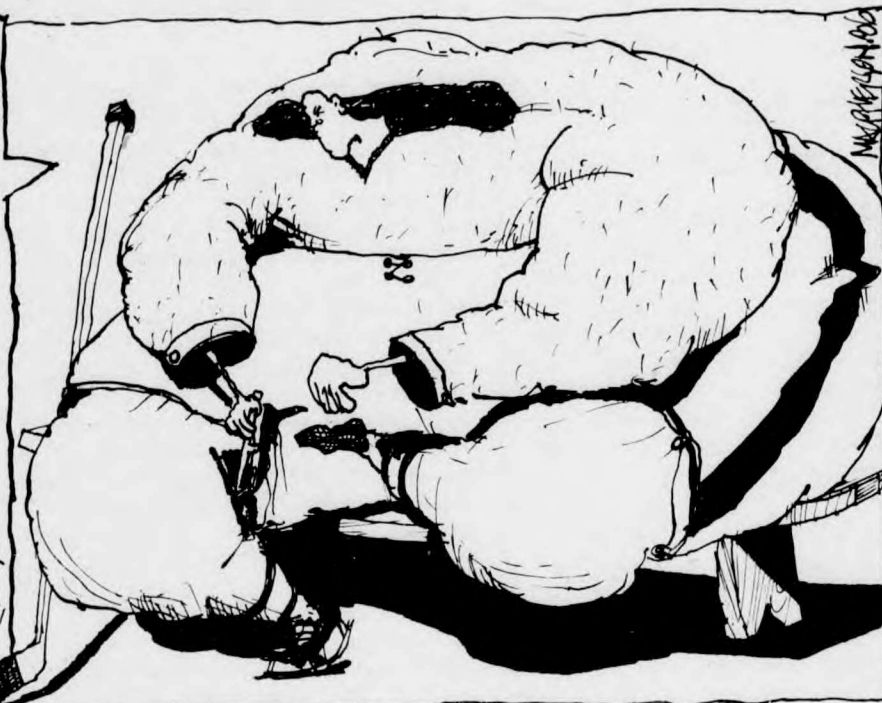
When the Calumet College General Meeting (CCGM), Calumet's student association, discovered in December that Carling O'Keefe Breweries Ltd. was linked in South Africa via its majority-ownership by Rothman's of London and South Africa's Rothman's Pall Mall, it voted to take a symbolic stand against apartheid. All Carling O'Keefe products were banned from CCGM social functions and most people had little objection.

Last month, consistent with this policy, the CCGM also voted to remove five softball trophies bearing the Carling O'Keefe insignia from the display case in the Calumet Common Room. They were to be returned to Carling O'Keefe with a letter. Soon after this motion was passed, Calumet's large population of sports enthusiasts and intramural participants began to howl: "The integrity of Calumet sports is threatened by this action," a petition read.

Those who supported the removal of the trophies are "a bunch of blind radicals trying to disturb our recreation," read an article in this month's *Calumetro*. The article shook with rage and prophesied the doom of the College if those five trophies were removed: "Any positive effects that are created in South Africa are quickly negated by the damage to the college. There will be ramifications. People will leave the college. The college's reputation will suffer . . ." and so on.

Actually, Calumet's reputation suffers more when both sides in a debate like this are unable to retain a sense of perspective and resort to rant and hyperbole. Those who branded Calumet's sports directors as racists, which they quite clearly are not, are equally contemptible. But anyone who uses the word "suffer" or "victim" in the context of woe at the loss of five softball trophies, when the aim is to make a statement against the atrocities in South Africa, is clearly exhibiting a strange arrangement of priorities.

THAT DOES IT! I'M HANGING UP MY ACADEMIC SKATES FOR GOOD! I WON'T GO TO ANY UNIVERSITY IN ANY SOLAR SYSTEM THAT LINKS CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP WITH CORPORATE ACTIVITY! WHO WANTS ANYTHING TO DO WITH OTHER STUFF WHEN IT'S NOT EVEN IN YOUR OWN LEAGUE! DO THEY EVEN HAVE RINKS OVER THERE - I'LL BET NOT. WELL THAT DOES IT! I'M HANGING UP MY ACADEMIC SKATES!



Letters

Quantum error ails physics student

Editor:

As a student of physics, it pains me when I read of gross inaccuracies of the quantum mechanics in an attempt to bolster some mystical view of the universe. Another example of this has cropped up in "Refutation of Ridpath" (*Excalibur* Letters) where it is claimed that physicists have proven that there is no "objective reality." This is a lie.

There are, at present, two categories of interpretations of the quantum mechanics. The first is essentially Heisenbergian non-statistical-single-object theory. This theory holds that the principle of indeterminacy applies to individual particles. But his theory is enveloped by the thick fog of Bohr's "complementarity," which makes it hard to distinguish just what is being said. Moreover, no experiment has been performed to simultaneously measure the position and momentum of a single particle to a sufficient precision to quantify the errors involved. The Heisenberg relation (as applied to a single particle) has never been confirmed experimentally.

The essentially Einsteinian statistical interpretation holds that the uncertainty relations deal only with ensembles of particles. It can be shown that initial conditions, causality, and time-asymmetries are a logical necessity of any statistical mechanical model (classical or quantum). As an example, the cornerstone of calculations in quantum mechanics is the Schrodinger equation, which is deterministic in that the solution is completely specified by the initial conditions.

Such an interpretation of the quantum mechanics, by Kenneth Golby may, in fact, hinder or entirely pre-empt any attempt to unify the laws of physics. The opinion that the paradoxes of the quantum mechanics have metaphysical status is dangerous to the future of science. I quote from Sir Arthur Eddington, "It would probably be wiser to nail up over the door of the new quantum theory a notice, 'Structural alterations in progress—No admittance except on business.'"

—David White

CYSF poster undercuts OFS issue

Editor:

A question comes to mind after seeing the CYSF posters regarding the upcoming referendum. The question is: Who will get the car, or the year in Europe, or ptomaine from eating at McDonald's? Reya Ali? I know that I haven't been offered the money. Where do I sign up?

This matter is too important to be trivialized in this manner. The real options for the \$30,000 should be what we are presented with, not someone's bad

attempt at a joke. Where do you want the money to go, Mr. Ali? Are your suggestions so laughable that you must bring OFS down to your level? To make an informed decision, I need all the options. Give them to me and leave the sarcasm to Don Rickles.

—John Kinnear

Left wing goons

Editor:

If the near riot which occurred last Friday, at U of T over Mr. Babb's visit is indicative of the intelligence level of the anti-apartheid movement we should all be thankful that Mr. Botha's government is still in power.

What the world doesn't need is a group of left wing goons controlling a country of such vital importance, as South Africa.

—Barry Chatterton

Lower the flag

Editor:

On Tuesday, January 28, the space shuttle Challenger tragically exploded in a huge ball of flame some 75 seconds after leaving pad 39B. That horrifying scene, and the even more horrifying realization of the fate of her crew will long be etched into the minds of millions of people. Live coverage of launches have resulted in our becoming familiar and almost blasé about such flights. Tuesday's disaster all too dramatically illustrated that these flights are far from routine. Those on board knew the risks, took them anyway and unfortunately, ran out of luck. They were adventurers in the truest sense and will be missed.

York University was deeply involved with space research through NASA, the CANADIAN ASTRONAUT PROGRAM and private research. Steve MacLean, a member of the Canadian astronaut team (and due to be the next Canadian in space) is a York Ph.D. graduate.

My point: Why was the flag not lowered in a show of respect? York has no clear cut rules governing the matter. Were a member of the York community to die, the flag would be lowered. Members of government may or may not rate such treatment (Prime Minister of Premier of Ontario—yes. Other provinces' premiers—no.) While it is true that Dr. MacLean was (mercifully) not aboard 51L (the official designation of Tuesday's mission) but for crew assignments, he may well have been. Dr. MacLean was not from any other university but from York. Those aboard Challenger were certainly colleagues if not friends of Steve MacLean. His sorrow is deep. It would have been a fine gesture to show we empathize and feel his loss as well as dropping the flag to half-mast.

In December 1984, York hosted the three Canadian astronauts, Dr.

MacLean, Dr. Marc Garneau and Dr. Robert Thirsk as well as a host of other dignitaries including Robert Crippen (shuttle veteran and pilot of the first mission) and Mel Lastman. Speaking to a standing room crowd in Burton Auditorium, each in turn praised York's contributions—past, present and future—to space research. The atmosphere was familial: The US and Canada in a great adventure, yet no sign was seen that York, in all its involvement, even gave notice to this great loss. Interestingly, York's latest promotional poster displays the shuttle in one corner.

I must in all fairness, commend Ken Davey and Dorothy Moore for at least considering this request. In the end however, it was decided to leave the flag up. I was told that should another eminent person die, the appropriate faculty would demand the flag be lowered etc. etc. I understand this dilemma. However, I realize that York was more deeply involved than most other educational establishments. I also realize that lowering a flag does not require a huge study, mountains of paperwork or immense physical stamina. Hell, I could have done it in a couple of minutes.

Steve Kolodziejczyk
Biology

Not drinking slobs

To the Sports Editor:

Mr. Van Belkom, I am writing in response to your article entitled "Inter-murals can't compare to varsity athletics." Your article began as an unbiased piece of journalism that simply stated the facts and thus had some merit to the reader. But when you began referring to Intramural sports as lacking the essential ingredients of "talent, determination, and hours of practice and a will to win," you lost this reader completely.

Having been actively involved in the Intramural program here at York for the past four years, I can honestly say that the majority of teams that participate in the Torch division of the program are not as you have described. It is true that the Open Recreational and Flame leagues are more relaxed and often involve coming out for fun, but the generalization you made was unfounded. The Torch teams are not beer drinking slobs who stagger over to the gym or arena for a good old time with the gang. They are serious competitors who pay and compete for practice times in order to choose the best skilled players for their teams. They are as dedicated to their game as any other athlete, especially for those who also spend a great deal of time and energy organizing sports for their respective colleges.

Another point you should realize is that it is because of the abundance of varsity practice times that Torch teams are not able to practice many hours for

continued on p. 9

excalibur

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