

name change purely cosmetic

York's Political Science Graduate Council (PSGC) has agreed to nominate students for scholarships resulting from a \$1 million U.S. donation to the university by the Japanese Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (JSIF).

The JSIF is headed by Ryoichi Sasakawa, who, as everyone knows by now, is the self-proclaimed "world's richest fascist" with documented ties to the Japanese underworld.

Many York students and professors are angry that the administration accepted the donation because of Sasakawa's questionable activities and character.

A motion passed by the PSGC states that, "We could not in all conscience have nominated students for an award that bears the name of Mr. Sasakawa."

So, the scholarship fund will now not bear Sasakawa's name. It will be called the Graduate Fellowships for Academic Distinction.

The PSGC's members are kidding themselves if they believe everything is OK now because because Sasakawa's name is not being used. The money is still tainted.

Meanwhile, on February 9, Princeton accepted a similar donation to its Woodrow Wilson School of International Relations. Members of the York administration, however, have been saying all along that they were not embarrassed to accept the money because universities like Princeton, Harvard, Yale and Berkley had *already* accepted the donation.

The JSIF is clearly guilty of misrepresenting itself in the promotional literature it gave York and the administration has again showed itself to be negligent for not fully investigating the source of this donation.

Misrepresentations like this tend to support the argument that Sasakawa does not care who is being helped by his philanthropy, but rather that he is trying to buy himself a good name.

For Princeton, the donation is just a drop in a very deep bucket of fellowship money. York is, unfortunately, not so well endowed. The incident underscores the need for York and other Ontario universities to press the province and the federal government for more funds for education that can be used for graduate fellowships (not less, as current transfer payment cuts in Tuesday's budget seem to be foreshadowing).

Even if this, as President Arthurs says, is the largest donation in York's history, the only moral thing York can do is to return the money. But it is clear this will not be done.

York will bear the stigma for having accepted money from an organization headed by a man who worshipped Mussolini.

If only all evil could be swept away by changing its name.

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DAY APART (ALTHOUGH IN
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letters

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Arthurs' speech to Czech pres in poor taste

Dear Editor:

Eight years ago, I had nominated Vaclav Havel, the prominent Czech playwright, for an honorary degree at York University. Imagine my surprise when I learned that York president Harry Arthurs was going to present the honorary degree to Vaclav Havel, now president of Czechoslovakia, during his visit to Toronto at the UofT Convocation Hall on February 19. As the nominator, a person who had to prepare the materials for the nomination process in 1982, I wasn't even told about the event or invited to participate. Well, that's the way presidents are, I told myself, swallowed my pride, and called Harry at home.

The problem was rectified immediately. Harry graciously allowed me to join him. I was permitted to walk four steps behind him from Massey Hall to the Convocation Hall to witness the ceremony. It was good enough for me. I didn't want to share the limelight with him — Harry needs that for his metabolism.

Following many speeches and many honours bestowed on Havel, Arthurs came to the microphone. With his impeccable suave manners he made a joke about York giving an honorary degree to an

obscure European playwright eight years ago. Some people felt it was in poor taste. Either as a writer or as a dissident, Havel was anything but obscure. Of course, what kind of jokes do you expect to be told from one president to another?

My second surprise followed Harry's presentation. He made his witty speech, but didn't deem it necessary to mention the nominator's name in front of the man I had admired way back, in 1982, when he was sitting in prison.

Well, you may ask, what the moral of the story is? Quite simply: only a fool would expect a common courtesy from one obscure university president in Downsview.

Vaclav Taborsky
 Associate Professor
 Department of Film and Video

Reader scoffs at NATO's peace claims

Dear Editors:

Last October, I wrote an article for *Excalibur* covering a civil disobedience action protesting the Canadian government's overturning of a Newfoundland judge's acquittal of four Innu. The Innu had been charged with trespassing on a Goose Bay runway from which low-level military flights over Innu homeland are routinely launched, on the grounds that no part of Nitassinan had ever been ceded to Canada in any treaty.

A month after that ruling was overturned on the basis of the judge's having made a "procedural error," the Department of National Defence (DND), arguing

that plans for the expansion of the Goose Bay base into a NATO training centre should proceed regardless of social and environmental costs. Subsequently, a 90-day public review was held, which ended two days ago (Feb. 12).

Yesterday, the co-ordinator of a panel of 25 researchers charged the DND with "scientific fraud," stating, "It is a public disgrace that the Canadian taxpayer has spent \$6-million on a document that is essentially fraudulent from cover to cover." Over 100 flaws were found in the report by a panel of 22 independent scientists.

Not only are the low-level flights, which the \$500-million NATO centre would quintuple in number, tremendously destructive to the human and natural environment, but they are part of a new NATO warfighting doctrine called Follow-on Forces Attack, or "Deep Strike," which focuses on the ability of nuclear-capable warplanes to penetrate the radar of Warsaw Pact countries. Whether or not this technology is ever used for anything other than war-games, the fact that it exists at all brings us one step closer to a nuclear war, and assures that the twin military machines of the superpowers will continue to develop more direct and effective methods of mass murder.

This fact manages to take the humour out of the otherwise ridiculous claim by the commanding officer of the Goose Bay base that "the training conducted here by the NATO forces" is directly responsible for "tremendous gains toward peace, most recently in Eastern Europe." That's as absurd as the assertion printed in a local rag yesterday that "liberty and human rights have nothing to do with what's going on in the Eastern Bloc. If it is a revolution, its symbol is a VCR." But at least VCRs don't break the sound barrier 30 metres over your head, burn the branches off trees and drop bombs in your background.

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