

# LETTERS cont'd

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Are the spousal relationships of other faculty hirings uncorrelated at this university or do the appointments represent exposed wormholes of a systematic and greater corruption that lurks within and rots the conceptual foundation of this institution?

Whatever the cause I must warn that if York occasionally but habitually fills new teaching positions with the spouses of other faculty then some of those new positions are probably occupied by less than first class teacher scholars. As a student of York, I feel reluctant to invest my time and fees on courses that may be directed by persons who have bypassed the stringent selection procedures that protect my class colleagues and myself from unexceptional educators. If silence is an expression of guilt then I feel deeply betrayed to even speculate that the quality of our education has been compromised as a condition for attracting several swifter players to the senior team while we endure, as a consequence of negotiation, the uncertain mediocrity of their better halves.

Daniel Raxloff  
Science II

## No need for strike, Prof says

Editor:

THE CASE AGAINST THE YORK UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION (YUFA) FROM PERSONAL VIEWPOINT OF ONE FACULTY MEMBER.

After several close calls over the last few years the YUFA executive has at last managed to bring off a strike, although less than 1/3 of the faculty actually voted them a mandate to call one (representing 53% of those who cast a ballot). (On one earlier occasion, when the crisis occurred in May (sic 1982), they proposed as strike action the withholding of students' grades; it was then that I resigned from YUFA).

Why has a strike been declared? What makes this question difficult for me personally to answer (without resorting to possibly far-fetched theories as to the motives and psychology of the YUFA executive) is the complete absence of reasonable grounds for a strike. I had always believed (or hoped) that striking should be the last resort of oppressed workers desperate to improve poor working conditions. DO MY WORKING CONDITIONS NEED IMPROVEMENT? Let's see: As a professor in the mathematics department, my teaching duties, occupying about thirty weeks out of the year, can be arduous, since time spent on preparation, seeing students outside the classroom, and marking may be considerable, though this is not always so. (I have a colleague who does a great deal of research in order to be able to impart something fresh and of value to his students; on the other hand there are without doubt those who after many years of teaching the same course, have it down pat, and need no preparation.) In any case teaching is potentially a far more rewarding and significant occupation, with tremendous scope for creativity, then most I can think of. For the remaining part of the year, apart from a little committee work and some days spend marking examinations and advising students, I PURSUE WHAT PRESUMABLY INTERESTS ME MOST, NAMELY MATHEMATICAL RESEARCH AND LEARNING. The rewards here are potentially very large: profound intellectual satisfaction, knowledge of deep things, lasting fame, a job in a great centre of excellence; all these are open to me if I have the talent, ambition, endurance and energy. There are also substantial monetary rewards in the form of grants from bodies like the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and I am given every seventh year free of

teaching at 3/4 salary to further my research career (or improve my teaching skills) in some manner entirely at my discretion.

In addition to all that, I have job security as complete as it can be, considerable social prestige, and a salary in excess of \$47,000 (or more than \$50,000 if the administration's offer had been accepted). I can supplement this income by writing books, doing translation work or teaching up to two additional courses (for more than \$5,500 each) during the summer.

Who would deny that I have a lovely job? Am I then exceptional among faculty at York University? Not at all: I was hired just prior to the long freeze on hiring, which began in the early seventies, so that most faculty members at York are (or should be) in a similar position to mine.

Thus, to summarize, I have freedom in choosing how to carry out my responsibilities in the classroom, considerable time and freedom to pursue my professional interests, have job-tenure as secure as can be, I like what I do (since I do more-or-less what I like), and I am well paid. The administration has made a reasonable offer (of over 7% increase in salary, together with various other improvements). I DO NOT HAVE ANY ABSOLUTE GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINING, LET ALONG STRIKING! This is for me a most powerful conviction. I shall never rejoin YUFA as presently constituted, and shall never strike while my working conditions are even remotely as good as at present.

R.G. Burns,  
Mathematics Dept.,  
York University

## CYSF avoids issue in their ivory tower

Editor:

I would like to know what CYSF and the learned political observers of this university intend to do about the current YUFA strike. My curiosity was aroused by our own student council president's comments in the *Globe & Mail* today. He claims that York students are being sabotaged, how ironic!

I wonder who is sabotaging who? Was the CYSF willing to inquire what YUFA was striking for? At the same time, did our student representatives openly talk with YUFA reps regarding their demands? Furthermore, did CYSF approach the student body in an open assembly, attempting to inform the student of all pertinent issues? These are only a few points to consider. Just like the macho syndrome which prevails with the current OFS dilemma, CYSF members are openly criticizing YUFA without concrete student support. Why is CYSF so unwilling to support unions, support student interest?

Why doesn't CYSF climb down from its ivory tower and face the issues in an honest manner. The mere fact that CYSF collected 400 signatures, which actually makes up approximately 1% of the total 33,000 or more students, does not convince me that they are truly representing their constituents. Thus I feel that the student council is irresponsible in trying to impose their single view on the YUFA strike on the remaining 99% of the student body.

—Alex Riha

## YSF PR-man says Gaudet misses Riha's theme

Editor:

An answer to Mr. Gaudet's letter of October 3, 1985.

I would like to address one issue which caught my attention. Mr. Greg Gaudet was obviously shocked by Mr. Alex Riha's analysis of our student council's actions.

He claims that Mr. Riha is progressive, but not in a conservative



WHY IS THIS WOMAN SMILING? Bruce Bryden (seated centre), chairman of York's Board of Governors, glances over at York President Harry Arthurs during the latter's installation on May 9, 1985.

## Original York BOG man looks back

By DAVID BYRNES  
and ELLIOTT SHIFF

Bruce Bryden has more to look back on than most of us on the occasion of York's 25th anniversary. Now the Chairman of York's Board of Governors (BOG), Bryden's affiliation with York goes right back to 1959, when he was one of York's tiny first class of '73 at Falconer College on the campus of U of T. After obtaining a degree in sociology and economics in 1964, Bryden served as the founding president of York's

Alumni Association in 1965-66, then on Senate from 1966-68 before becoming a member of the BOG in 1971.

Why this dedication to York?

"My university days were some of the best of my life," Bryden explains. "University was a rewarding experience and the idea of being able to give something back to York always appealed to me."

Says York President Harry Arthurs of Bryden, "I am constantly impressed with the enormous amount of time Mr. Bryden gives to

the University and his attention to detail. He is well-informed and knows what's going on in every aspect of the Board's work."

When not working in his capacity as Chairman of the Board, which includes presiding over inductions and convocations, Bryden is Investment Vice President of Finance with Confederation Life Insurance Company.

"York has accomplished a lot in its 25 years," he reflects. "It's really carved out a place for itself in the community."

## Excalibur sub-editorial elections coming up October 17

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fashion. This word "progressive" is somewhat over used. Let us say that Mr. Riha is interested. Nevertheless Mr. Gaudet is correct, Ali has not practiced physical terrorism, but he forgets the psychological use of *legitimized constitutional manipulator* which has been exhibited by our student reps.

This Mr. Gaudet, was the theme of Mr. Riha's note. I am sorry if the events here have not awakened your sensitive emotions.

—Jorge Echegoyen

YSF coordinator of public relations

## Nuclear weapons useless in first strike: McNamee

Editor:

At first sight, President Reagan's "Star Wars" anti-missile defence initiative seems like an excellent idea.

However, there is at least one feature of any anti-ballistic missile system which renders it useless for its intended purpose (or should I say its alleged intended purpose). That is to say, all these proposed systems depend crucially on sensors which have to detect extremely weak radar or infra-red signals. To detect the enemy missiles soon after they are launched, these sensors must be permanently in space. If the "enemy" also has anti-missile beam weapons, it will be extremely easy for

him to destroy the sensors of "our side," as the first step of a surprise attack, thus rendering the whole system totally ineffective.

Thus the only use of an anti-missile system would be as part of a First Strike or Surprise Attack; that is to say it is not really a defensive weapon at all.

But if we struck first, we would not escape massive damage, even if we were to destroy most of the Russian missiles on the ground and the rest in space. For a nuclear attack would, by raising vast clouds of soot and dust, create the so-called Nuclear Winter effect throughout the Northern Hemisphere, i.e. a reduction in temperature by 40 degs C., resulting in the death of most of our population through cold, hunger, and thirst.

Indeed, Nuclear Weapons are no longer needed as a deterrent, and are no longer useful in a First Strike. The sooner we reach agreement to do away with them the better, and in negotiating their mutual destruction there is no need to quibble over details any longer.

J.M. McNamee

## YSMAA supports faculty strikers

Editor:

Message of Solidarity and Support to YUFA.

We the members of the York Stu-

dents' Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA) are solidly behind YUFA and in support of their legitimate struggle and demands for better conditions and incentives for work.

There is no doubt that improved conditions and security are necessary for enhanced academic output. This determines largely the quality of education and degrees that we receive from the university. We therefore view with great concern and all amount of seriousness the reluctance with which the Administrators are dealing with YUFA demands.

We do not want to believe that Administration has any other priority than to guarantee and facilitate genuine scholarship and best standards in the quality of education here. York University is first and foremost an academic institution, before a business venture if at all. We also believe that any worker needs the confidence that he or she is not being marginalized by any sector of production; not even the Administration. It is our hope that York Administration comes to the understanding soon that meaningful dialogue and genuine responsiveness to issues can save us all the hardship and embarrassment of strikes as routine.

As pledge of our solidarity, we are calling off our general meeting that had been scheduled for today.

We offer YUFA comrades salutations in their struggle.

—Esiri Dafiewhare  
Secretary, YSMAA