

Editorial

Keep bleating sheep faculty out of our Student Centre-to-be

It seems it was only yesterday that York's architects and planners were building a ramp outside the Ross building that some historians maintain was intended to aid tanks in quelling student outbreaks of violence.

The times they are a changin'. Last week nary a word of protest, not even a Molotov cocktail to be heard whistling across campus as the Faculty Club was officially declared off limits to students.

While days of sit-ins and riots are now mere memories, and briefcases and flannel have replaced yesterday's frisbees and denim, how could the student body put up with this blow to their freedom? It seems we have forgotten Kent State.

In its obnoxious quest for 'excellence' yet another barrier of elitism has been raised by the University and no one seems to care.

We demand a call to arms. Storm the bastille Faculty Club. Bring knives, forks, and yes, even spoons.

"Let them eat fettucine" one hears emanating through the marble walls of the Faculty Club as professors enter their oasis of quiet and escape. The Club's managers say the pesky students don't have enough money to deserve this privilege. We may be swarms of locusts, but we can afford the cannelloni.

Revenge will be ours. When the Student Centre is erected we will not forget. The doors of our building will be guarded against vapid professorial drivels.

There will be no exceptions. If we let even one frisbee toting purveyor of knowledge in, other less savory types will follow like bleating sheep, polluting our environment with tweed dust and malodorous pipe fumes. Once they are allowed into the Student Centre they will then mount an incursion into other student lairs. Everything we hold dear to our existence will soon be in danger of being swept away as domino after domino topples.

We've already lost the Faculty Club. What's next? The tanning salon?



Letters

York divestment falsely stalled

Editor:

That the divestment process at York is being stalled on legal/economic grounds is most entertaining. Elsewhere, such 'grounds,' as far as South African economy is concerned, have long ceased to be secure—for the most obvious reasons.

Consider the following factors. According to *The Wall Street Journal* (27 Feb. 1986), in 1983, six US multinationals left South Africa. The same year saw three firms set up shop. In 1984, seven left against two which started operations. In 1985 a total number of 28 US multinationals left South Africa. And guess how many entered this 'secure' economy in the same year. Zero! This is, interestingly enough, the first time in decades that no US company initiated a new operation in that country.

The corporations that are packing their bags include large ones—such as General Electric, Marriot Corp., and Phibro-Saloman Inc. Bell Howell just sold its South African audio-visual business even though it netted \$1 million in profit in 1984. In the words of *The Wall Street Journal*, "many observers expect the pace to pick up as more managers conclude that South Africa's white minority regime can't and won't deliver . . .". Furthermore, "despite . . . interim agreement for South Africa's payment of part of its frozen multibillion-dollar foreign debt, many large US companies are developing contingency plans to get out, board members say privately."

Meanwhile, pro-apartheid efforts to stem the tide of divestment campaign have largely failed. If anything, the reverse is occurring. Sixteen states, 56 US cities and over 60 universities including Harvard which divest itself of over \$50 million have pulled the plug. But by far, the most revealing divestment effort involves the state of New Jersey. There,

Republican Governor Thomas Kean, despite tremendous pressure from our beloved President Reagan God bless him, signed a law last year, setting in motion the divestment of about \$2 billion in his state's pension-fund stocks.

And what about the situation here at York? First the "responsibility" argument would not be so hollow were we dealing with some other economy. But South Africa's? Secondly, the resolution adopted by YUFA, YUSA and President Arthurs calls for the York Pension divestment—not immediately but within a year. No one is asking the board of trustees to throw the pension stocks into the sea, but rather to vote on the motion—after which (assuming that is YES) the appropriate course, i.e. finding equal or even more beneficial areas of investment, will be taken. The point then, is this: vote!

—David Himbara

Apartheid will soon collapse

Editor:

Isn't it ironic that the same day that Chatterton asked Himbara how many kids the ANC had killed (*Excalibur*, March 27, 1986), the headlines of the major world newspapers read: POLICE SHOOT 25 BLACKS DEAD IN SOUTH AFRICA? (see also *Toronto Star*, March 27, 1986, p. 3). In fact we have not read in the papers, heard by word of mouth or seen on TV that the ANC has murdered any kids at all! Or have you? All we hear, read in papers and see on TV are South African police and Army shooting and mowing down defenceless Africans, Coloreds and Indians. In short Chatterton's support for Apartheid should not be camouflaged by lies but must be clearly stated as support for Apartheid. Red-baiting will not do either. The whole world knows that Africans are struggling against oppression in South Africa. They are not being prompted by communism. In fact they have

been struggling since before the birth of communism as an ideology.

In reference to Pengelly's letter suggesting the trial of Anti-Apartheid activists under the hate laws (*Excalibur*, March 27, 1986) it is enough to point out to Pengelly that under civilised conditions, victims and protesters of racial oppression cannot and should not be tried. The ANC and Anti-Apartheid Activists are not Anti-White, they are against racial oppression. And they have stated so in their speeches and documents.

Regarding "Freedom of Speech" we refer the reader to our extended analysis of this issue in the *Excalibur* (January 23, 1986) and subsequent letters by other authors in the *Excalibur*. Here we bring in other issues which shift the debate a little bit. Is it not ironic that while Pengelly, Chatterton, Bricker et al reduce the gigantic struggle against Apartheid in Canada to mere freedom of speech, Apartheid South Africa is restricting and kicking out the western media from South Africa? The CBS TV crew was kicked out a few weeks back, at the same time that CITY, CFTO et al started carrying a South African advertisement spelling out how good it is for whites to visit South Africa. But Apartheid does not allow the Western media to report from South Africa. And we hear no complaints from Bricker, Pengelly and Chatterton!

In short Apartheid knows that the issue involved is not merely a question of Freedom of Speech. It is a question of one group oppressing another, which in turn is vigorously resisting that oppression. Abroad, however, Apartheid together with Chatterton, Pengelly and Bricker want the issue of oppression to be reduced to mere freedom of speech. Fortunately the majority knows better and only a few rare birds are fooled. In any case these rare birds will soon be extinct since Apartheid (with its arms which awes Hamilton English—*Excalibur*, March 27, 1986) will collapse before the close of this century.

—Munyonzwe Hamalengwa

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