

Letters Cont'd

including the CYSF president, met monthly to discuss issues of concern to all York students. CCOY was the only body that truly represented all students because all constituency presidents/chairs were active members.

In the "CYSF NEWS," Mr. Ali stated that "CYSF has reestablished itself as the political arm and voice of all students at York regardless of constituency." This is simply not true. CYSF does not represent all students—Bethune, Calumet, Osgoode, Atkinson, Glendon and GSA do not belong to CYSF. These constituencies, however, were part of CCOY. In addition, Mr. Ali stated that he had "seen to the demise of CCOY..." In fact, he has incorporated the very successful CCOY model into his proposed model restructuring CYSF by making the 17 previous members of CCOY his CYSF Board of Directors. However, not all members of CCOY have seen fit to join CYSF.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Ali felt it necessary to criticize and belittle the efforts of the many student government leaders who worked together for years to make York a better place for all students. Mr. Ali thinks he is the first to attempt to revise the student government system at York. Give credit where credit is due. Many of us have worked for years to find a way to centrally represent all constituencies. In fact, CCOY successfully did just that.

—*Pamela Fruitman*
Student Representative,
Board of Governors

"No" thank you from Blink

Editor:

I'd like to thank all the people who helped support the "no" campaign and I hope for further cooperation between CYSF and the Ontario Federation of Students.

—*Gerard Blink*

College sports symbolize union of university

Mr. Edo Van Belkom:

In response to your article (*Excalibur*, Jan. 30, 1986), "Intramurals can't compare to Varsity athletics."

Well, for starters, I can only say that attitudes like yours are what ruin the chances of a feeling of community here at York. Obviously you haven't fully participated in the Intramural sports program here at York—experienced the thrill of competition, made new friends, enjoyed a victory or agonized over a defeat. Granted, Intramurals cannot compete with the calibre of varsity athletics, but then, that is not its purpose. Intramurals is for the enjoyment of those who don't excel in athletics, and also for the benefit of those who want healthy competition without the strong commitment of varsity sports. That is why there are two levels, one more competitive than the other.

As for your reference to your experiences with alcohol and hockey, I hardly believe that this one incident can sum up the intramural system. After all, not all of the varsity teams have clean slates either. The actions of one team cannot fairly represent all others who just want good, clean fun.

Intramurals symbolize a union within the university. Since the colleges constitute the University as a whole, as all students belong to one or another, you are depriving the people of news to which they are entitled. Not all of the colleges are fortunate enough to have a college newspaper, and therefore, are (according to you insinuations) not entitled to hear about the happenings in the intramural program.

I also feel that you should take into consideration the vast majority of varsity athletes who compete in

Intramural athletics. This includes players from volleyball, football, and rugby to name a few. Are you saying that these people are unathletic also, and know nothing of the spirit of competition? Intramurals includes all of the aspects of varsity sports—talent, determination, and the will to win—and a lot more for those who are interested (and I think you would be surprised at this number!).

At any rate, I feel you should take another look at what the people are entitled to, not what you as a reporter want to report. You seem to forget that it is the people's newspaper; perhaps you should take another look at York's Intramural Sports Program, and maybe you might learn something.

—*Pamella Prescod*
Norman Bethune College Council

Racism an affront to dignity

Editor:

Re: Student letter to Editor entitled "Left wing goons" which appeared in the February 6 issue.

If the "near riot" which occurred at the University of Toronto over Mr. Babb's visit is indicative of the "intelligence level" of the anti-apartheid movement (as the concerned student implied), the existence of apartheid is even more indicative of the dismally low "intelligence level" of those who rule South Africa. The idea that blacks are born inferior to whites and that they must live at an inferior material level of life, and should be encouraged to do so, is as intellectually valid today as Ptolemaic astronomy. It is also interesting to note the conspicuous similarities between the anti-apartheid "left wing goons" and the nineteenth-century British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society. Both groups were sufficiently intelligent to understand that racism constitutes too gross an affront to human dignity to be countenanced under any pretext. We should all be grateful that there are Canadians who can transcend political expediency, ideological polemics, racial worship and apathy in the pursuit of justice and dignity for their fellow creatures in a distant land. The question we should be asking ourselves is not whether "left wing goons" will be controlling vitally important South Africa (as the student in question suggested). Instead we should ask ourselves: What would we do if we were in their position? What would we feel we were treated as sub-humans because of the colour of our skin? This is called compassion; an essential human virtue which distinguishes us from the beasts of the field. If there is anyone who is suffering from acute intellectual and moral myopia, it is those who seem to think that Apartheid is not so bad after all.

—*Payam Akhavan*

Ali 'jumped the gun' claiming CYSF representative of all

Editor:

Last week marked the premier appearance of the dazzling new CYSF NEWS. Unfortunately, I was extremely disappointed with President Ali's front page address. Although Norman Bethune College is not yet a member of the CYSF, we have been participating actively in the reformation of the central student government. Student leaders across campus have been working very hard on the new constitution, but it is a time consuming activity that must be approached cautiously. I think anyone involved in the constitutional revisions would be disappointed with the accusation that "some representatives slowed things down deliberately." I do hope that we will be successful in improving the CYSF, but I believe that Mr. Ali also jumped the

gun when claiming that "CYSF has reestablished itself as the political arm and voice of all students at York regardless of constituency."

That aside, the President's message gets even more disturbing. His personal assault on Pam Fruitman and CCOY was not only unnecessary, but also surprising. Mr. Ali admittedly incorporated the CCOY model into the new CYSF Board of Directors. In fact, it was this sensitivity to the voice of the colleges, inherent in

that model, that first attracted my constituency to negotiate joining CYSF. In my experience, I found the CCOY to be a very helpful forum where we could discuss campus-wide concerns and issues. For my college, it was the only university-wide voice that we had. CCOY was never intended to undermine the authority of the CYSF, it simply provided a valuable communication network for members and non-members alike. Mr. Ali's predecessor seemed to rec-

ognize CCOY's strength. It is my hope that Mr. Ali will also recall the strength of the CCOY model and his use of it in the new CYSF Constitution. Perhaps on reconsideration he will also recall his indebtedness to the work of his colleague and co-worker Pamela Fruitman and offer her a formal apology for his wrongful attack.

—*Jill Rabjohn*
President
Norman Bethune College Council

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