

Honest Ed and footwear queen honoured with York degrees

by Gina Hanlon

A controversial industrialist and an immodest entrepreneur were among the stars of this year's convocation ceremonies. Sonja Bata and Ed Mirvish both received honorary degrees from York.

Bata sits on the boards of Bata Ltd., Alcan and Canadian Trustco, and sat on York's board of governors from 1976 to 1985.

Bata Ltd. has a shaky environmental reputation in Canada. This February, both the president and vice-president of Bata were found guilty of discharging toxic industrial waste from a plant near Trenton, Ont. Total fines of \$144,000 were levied against the company and the two directors. Although Sonja Bata was not directly

involved, the judgment of the court allocated blame and reparations to Bata Ltd., as well as the two directors.

David Webster of ACT for Disarmament and the East Timor Alert Network said York should not have given Bata the degree. Thomas and Sonja Bata have used such recognition to build their reputation for being world citizens, argued Webster.

"They're not benefactors of humanity," Webster said.

Bata Shoes is a major investor in Indonesia, a southeast Asian military dictatorship whose invasions of neighbouring island territories, such as East Timor in 1975, have so far escaped world attention.

Act for Disarmament picketed a Toronto Bata store Saturday and plans to continue information pickets.

Webster said ACT is also urging Canadian universities to sell investments in Indonesia. ACT singled out Bata for a campaign because the company is "vulnerable to consumer pressure" and withdrew from South Africa after similar protests were staged during the 1980s.

Tom Drucker, general counsel for Bata Ltd. in Toronto, said Bata "has been in Indonesia before there even was an Indonesia in existence, and to say that we were propping up the regime is simply inaccurate." Drucker said Act is indulging in "a gross attack on Bata's reputation." and is defaming the company.

In response to Act's charge that Indonesian Bata workers were paid only two dollars a day, Drucker responded "information between Bata Indonesia and their workers is confidential, but I can say it's several times more than that."

Edwin Mirvish, most famous for owning the Honest Ed's discount store, also received an honorary degree. During his acceptance speech, Mirvish noted his birthday was approaching and urged the convocation audience to shop in his stores as part of his celebration.

Other recipients included Betty Oliphant, the founder of the National Ballet School; Maria Campbell, a famous native Canadian writer and activist; and Grace Hartman, the first woman president of the Canadian Union of the Public Employees.



Activist group targets Bata stores. • photo by Andrew Brouse

Towing trauma solution seen

by Elaine Bellio

After a winter of angry complaints, York has been towing less cars.

In April, only 12 cars were towed away from York's parking lots. This was down from 149 in January.

In the past cars were towed away if they had five unpaid parking tickets. The policy has changed so that only cars that are obstructing a path are towed away, said Tom Arnold, interim parking manager for York Security.

People who have five unpaid tickets are now given a warning letter and two business days to pay their fines. If they fail to do so, then their cars will be towed.

These changes were made after a number of angry complaints.

Liddy Gomes, a staff member at the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, filed a complaint this year, expressing her concern for the safety of people who had their cars towed.

York employs Abrams Towing, whose parking lot is located in an isolated, unlit industrial area, with no signs.

"It is one of those areas you would not want to be caught in the dark," Gomes said. "It's in a closed-in field and there are watchdogs all around."

Since these complaints and

several others have been launched, the parking office has changed its policy.

Arnold said his office has also increased the safety of those people whose cars have been towed. If your car is towed, you will now be given a ride by security to Abrams or a taxi will be provided free of charge.

Joey Gagner, supervisor at Abrams, said, "We've already been working on changes."

He said they have put in more lights and signs at both their entrances.

"If they haven't done this by next winter, then I'll look for a new towing company," said Arnold.

Virginia Wadge, a professor at the LaMarsh Centre on Violence, filed a three-page complaint after her car was towed away in 1990.

Wadge says she arrived at work before any parking attendants were at the parking lots, so it was impossible pay the parking fee. She usually paid it when she was leaving the parking lot.

After two years of appeals, she was finally reimbursed the \$84 towing and ticket fee this February.

"It was very frustrating and if I wasn't persistent I never would have got my \$84 back," said Wadge. "I was bound and bent and wasn't going to let it drop until they admitted it was a clerical mistake."

Power struggle grounds grad council

by Pat Micelli

The Graduate Student Association continues to be paralyzed by conflicts between members of its executive.

The organization stopped taking applications for emergency loans and academic funds in May.

President-elect Alan Jones is challenging decisions made in an April meeting where the 1991-92 GSA executive voted to strike a committee to investigate its members and suspend all returning executives, including Jones, until the committee reports its findings.

The new executives have been locked out of their Student Centre offices since May 4. York Security

padlocked the doors after important documents were stolen and gave a set of keys only to acting president Eduardo Garay.

"We've gone nearly one and a half months without access to the facilities. Why? Because one book has gone missing," said Jones in a recent interview.

Jones said the executive's decisions are unconstitutional and he demands to be recognized as president.

"He [Garay] should remove the locks and give the 92/93 executive keys, and we should get on with the business of representing graduate students," Jones said.

But Garay said only the graduate student council can decide whether or

not the decisions are legitimate.

The council is made up of 56 representatives from graduate studies departments.

Jones said he is backing his claim with the "off the cuff" conclusions of Osgoode Hall law professor Bruce Ryder. In a report to York administrator Debbie Glass, Ryder said the GSA executive acted unconstitutionally when they struck the committee and suspended returning members.

Charles Simon-Aaron, incoming treasurer, said he supports the conclusions of the lawyer.

But not all members of the executive are convinced that Ryder's observations are the final word.

"I think if we were to have a second opinion it could be quite different," said Sherry Rowley, coordinator of women's affairs.

Garay said he doesn't think the lawyer had enough information when he made his conclusions.

"It's not conclusive evidence that what we did is wrong."

Garay has called a council meeting on June 25 to try to resolve the issue.

A peace factory?

continued from front page

- John McLucas, chair of the ISU board of directors, is a former secretary of the US Air Force and former president of MITRE Corporation, a major defence contractor.
- Of US-based contributions to ISU, \$333,000 came from NASA and \$330,000 came from defence contractors.
- Canada's Department of National Defence was one of the sponsors of the 1990 ISU summer session at York University.

Larry Clarke, founder of Canadian Aerospace giant Spar Aerospace and a member of the ISU board, denied that military-related research would take place at the space university.

"I've never heard a word of research, let alone military. In fact, I think the people would run a mile if they thought there was military," Clarke said, noting that the space university is meant to be only a teaching school "with a certain necessary component of

research."

But this weekend Richard Allen, Ontario's minister of colleges and universities, told *Excalibur* the space university would be predominantly research-based.

"It's a bit misleading that it's being called a university in the first place because it isn't a university, it's an advanced research institute, in effect, that will handle graduate students," Allen said.

Peter Mueller, an aerospace consultant and organizer of the York campus bid, said the campus would have at least some component of research and could not rule out the possibility of military-related work. But he said the space university would be subject to York research policies, which forbid some types of secret research.

And Peter Diamandis, one of the founders of ISU, acknowledged that it would be virtually impossible to divorce aerospace research from military-related applications.

"In the US, there is zero aerospace which is not military-connected," Diamandis said.

Student Centre Childcare The Student Centre Childcare will be operating its summer programme from May to August 7. The centre will continue to offer its flexible part-time care for children ages 18 months to 5 years, but will also be offering school age care on a limited basis, full or part-time. For more info call Denise or Lesley at 736-5959.

Bisexual Lesbian and Gay Peer Support Group Discrete and confidential. Addressing personal issues, Continuing through the summer. Tuesday 5-7pm, at 315C Student Centre. Any hesitations call Doug at 736-2100, ext.20494.

York By Cycle A York-based bicycle user group. The ring-posts are popping up everywhere. The more bicycles come on campus, the more they will be planned for. For more info call Ed or Mel at 322-9440.

Harnessing Intuition The second annual Global Intuition Conference will focus on issues such as how intuit-

Leave submissions in the Drop Everything envelope in the Excal production room, 420 Student Centre, c/o Catharine Soukoreff. Deadlines are Thursdays before Wednesday publications.

DROP EVERYTHING

tive ability can be measured, and how intuitive skills can be practically used to increase productivity, profitability and effectiveness within organizations. At York University, August 20 to 22. Cost is \$300.00, or \$150.00 for students. For more information contact Dr. Rebecca Jubis at 736-5252.

Ride Board Going somewhere? Need a ride? Have extra space in your car? Announce it and reduce your costs. Located outside the YFS office.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

HOST A JAPANESE UNIVERSITY STUDENT FOR A WEEKEND

Japanese university students participating in a month-long summer language program at York University's English Language Institute are placed with a homestay family for one weekend. Homestay begins **Friday August 14 and continues through Sunday August 16**. If you would like to open your home to one or two of these students please call the English Language Institute at 736-5353.