

York votes next week on total divestment

By GARY SYMONS
and DAVID BYRNES

York may soon become the second university in Canada to adopt a policy of total divestment in South African-linked companies, pending a key vote of the All University Pension Committee next Thursday.

York's investments in South Africa are almost solely through the management of its pension fund.

The first to institute such a policy was McGill which, after intense pressure from Montreal students, decided on November 18 to divest the estimated \$45 million it held in South African owned or controlled companies.

York is expected to follow in McGill's footsteps when the All University Pension Committee, a body which oversees the investment of York's pension fund, votes on a motion put forth by the York University Divestment Committee (YUDC). The motion proposes "that the York University Pension Fund Board of Trustees should instruct its investment counsellors to divest within one year the York University Pension Fund of all holdings in companies with investments in South Africa. Further, that the Board of Trustees agrees to continue the divestment policy until apartheid ends in South Africa."

At York, the pension fund is administered directly by the Board of Trustees, which employs investment counsellors to search out the best investments for the fund. The Trustees in turn are overseen by the All University Pension Committee.

The YUDC is calling for the ban on South Africa-linked investments on the grounds that "the membership of the York University Pension Fund has the moral responsibility to demand that their money not be invested in corporations that support this racist regime." Also, the YUDC reasons in its brief that "a prudent person would clearly not invest in such a turbulent climate" as the

economy of South Africa.

According to a YUDC report, *A Brief on the York University Pension*, almost \$23-million worth of investments made from the pension fund will be affected if the divestment policy is adopted. An ecstatic David Himbara, co-chairperson of the York Student Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA) and a founding member of the YUDC coalition, said he "was a bit surprised" that the divestment campaign so quickly received such broad support. The current divestment campaign began in September, 1984, when the YSMAA was founded as a vehicle for students to protest the oppression of blacks in South Africa. Himbara said the group then started the YUDC "because we felt the South African situation is no longer an 'activist issue.' It should be a broad concern for all people."

"We initiated it, but once it was set in motion all the unions have done incredible work."

Himbara said he is especially impressed by the response of President Harry Arthurs and York's Administration. "It's a pleasant surprise," he said, "especially looking at U of T, where they have used all sorts of tactics to block the protests. Here, people have readily taken positions, including the President, and they never blocked our attempts to secure documents. In fact, they suggested where we could find them."

Vice-President of Finance and Employee Relations Bill Farr, who represents the Administration on the pension committee, said he expects the motion will pass with little opposition, pointing out that most of the major constituent members have already either endorsed the divestment proposal or are members of the Divestment Committee. Both major unions on campus, YUFA and YUSA, support the proposal and are members of YUDC, and Arthurs expressed

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ROBERTA DI IMAIO



Anti-apartheid activist David Himbara is one of the main organizers of the York University Divestment Committee. The vote on whether to divest will take place next Thursday.

U. of Saskatchewan's student escort service to be modelled after York security operation

By SHELLY WEISFELD

York University's student escort services may be used as a model when the University of Saskatchewan attempts to set up its own escort services.

Jack Santarelli, Director of Security and Safety Services, was pleasantly surprised by the U of S inquiry, considering York's escort service has been in operation for only a short time.

"We've gone from 0 to \$100,000 in only 17 months," he said, referring to the service's yearly operating budget.

The service provides transportation to and from university parking lots and bus stops, from the hours of 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Students may also be escorted to their college residences.

Santarelli said the service moves about 15 thousand students a year, 90 percent of which are female.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of vehicles there is often a wait of 30 minutes or longer for some people. "We have three vehicles (two on the main campus and one at Glendon) and we probably need another vehicle," Santarelli said.

Five other vehicles are in use for security and fire protection, Santarelli added, and he said he is trying to use one of these vehicles during peak periods only. "But it would cost money to run this extra vehicle," he said, "money we don't have."

Catherine Lake, executive member of the Women's Centre, said service is slow and many women may not know about the escort service because of poor advertising.

Anthony Albanese, head of York's student security, said, "There has been no advertisement this year because we can't cater to everyone.

This year has doubled in the amount of calls." Albanese said people are informed of the escort service "by word of mouth."

Eric Pond, Assistant Director of Special Services, said "security is improving." He said lighting on campus has been strengthened and more emergency telephones have been installed throughout the university.

"Lighting was just part of the problem; self-awareness is the other," Pond said.

A self-defence course is being taught at Winters College beginning January 22 through the Sexual Harassment Centre. For 1984-85 seven indecent exposures and four assaults against women were reported on campus. SEE PAGE 3

Repair work drives grad back home to Lindsay

By SUSAN SPERLING
and LAURA LUSH

A York graduate student has temporarily moved from his residence at 6 Assiniboine Boulevard to his family home in Lindsay, Ontario because repair work on the building is interfering with his studies, he says.

Donald Wileman, who has been living on the 12th floor of 6 Assiniboine for three years, said he can't work on his dissertation in Modern European History in his room because "up to eight hours a day of hammering and sawing" disrupts his studies. "My room is also my study," he added.

In a December 11 memo from Wileman to Director of Housing and Food Services Norman Crandles, entitled "Screech, Crash, Thump," Wileman asked for a one-third rebate on his December rent because York was "unable to provide the quiet use and enjoyment (he) covenanted for."

While Crandles said he sympathized with Wileman and other tenants of the building, he rejected the rent refund, saying in a written response to Wileman that his "responsibility as a landlord (is) to provide properly maintained and safe buildings" over "quiet enjoyment."

Crandles added that work was halted during the exam period in December.

Wileman said he started taking days out of town in December, and did not return from his Christmas holidays in Lindsay when he found out that work was still ongoing. However, Wileman does stay at his residence on Thursday evenings because he teaches History 1010 on

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Weather Goose is here!

For long-range week-end weather forecast, see page 5. Honk!