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Forest letters: Volume V

Administration's statement

President H. Ian Macdonald has fully considered the circumstances leading to the suspension of Dr. Jeffrey Forest on November 21, 1977, and has reviewed the contents of reports made by assistant vice-

president Becker on November 30, 1977, and by Dean Eisen, Dean Knittl, and vice-president Farr on January 10, 1978.

The president is satisfied that the incident of November 18, 1977, and the atmosphere surrounding it created a real danger of further violence and possible physical injury unless immediate action was taken. That incident and the attendant danger, combined with the circumstances of November 4, warranted the suspension of Mr. Forest.

The incidents in Central Square are, however, surrounded by some confusion as to responsibility for the events which occurred, and the issue of assignment of responsibility, in two instances, should be decided by the courts.

The incident on November 4, 1977, however, would appear to be relatively clear given statements compiled with respect to that incident, and statements made by Mr. Forest at the meeting on January 6, 1978, with Dean Eisen, Dean Knittl and Mr. Farr. Mr. Forest did indeed use force at the November meetings, striking a student in ejecting him from the meeting room. The president wishes to make clear that

the use or threatened use of violence to curb a free and open debate will not be tolerated at York University.

Mr. Forest has been issued a formal reprimand and the President has asked Mr. Forest to undertake to keep the peace and maintain good conduct at this university, having recourse to the University's security officers for his protection and safe conduct should he feel himself in circumstances in which he feels threatened. Failure to observe such practices could only be interpreted as unwillingness on the part of Mr. Forest to continue as a member of this community.

With that understanding, Mr. Forest's suspension and ban from the campus have been lifted, and he has been advised that he may now return to his employment in the University. He has also been reminded that he has the right to a full hearing and review of the matter through independent arbitration, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the University's Collective Agreement with the Graduate Assistants' Association.

Communications Department
 York University
 January 17, 1978

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Dr. Forest's response

Dear Mr. Macdonald,
 I have received your letter dated January 13, 1978 in which you carry on the road of malicious political, social and academic persecution of myself and exoneration of the Zionist thugs, the university administration, campus security and Metro police and other disruptors (the reference here is to the Nov. 4 ejection of a disruptive student from an important meeting against state-organized racist attacks) for their disruptive and violent activities at York University.

I totally reject your claim that you have investigated this case and your claim to be the one interested in protecting the academic community at York. I also reject your arbitrary and unjust reprimand and consider it as a continuation of the line of using the authority bestowed on you by the state of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie to pressure me to change my political views and to stop contributing to the advance of

our society from dying and decadent capitalism to the higher and inevitable stage of communism.

I hereby give notice that I will be presenting my views in detail to you on Monday, January 23 and later on I will personally distribute these views to all the news media and to the academic community at York and throughout Canada as well as to all my friends abroad.

Finally, I inform you that while I reject your official reprimand I shall continue to teach my classes until such time as I hear to the contrary.

With utter contempt for your malicious political, social and academic persecution of myself, I remain

Jeffrey Goodman Forest
 Ed. D.

Student peeved

To my chagrin, President H. Ian Macdonald has lifted the suspension of Mr. Jeffrey Forest. I had hoped that York University's chief administrators were prepared to show that they were not about to allow a threat to students' security run free on the campus, now I see I had hoped in vain.

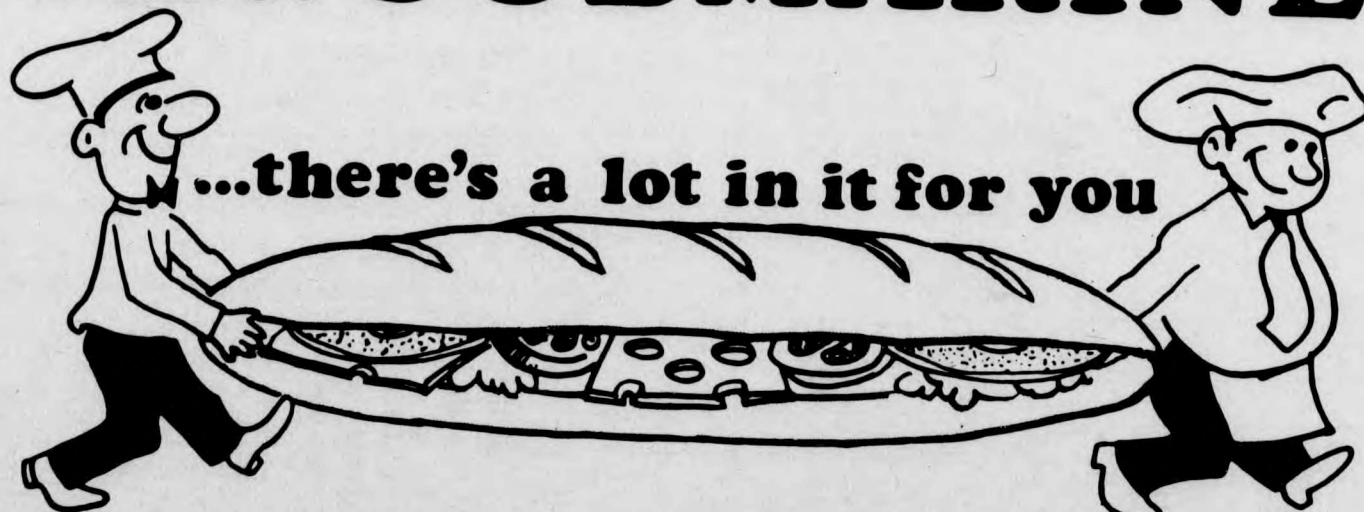
Jeffrey Forest, apparently, admitted to the assault of a York student on November 4. This action, alone, shows he is a violent man. Surely he knew then that such actions might result in expulsion, yet he became a willing part of the later incidents of November 18. Why should the President's new threats of dismissal stop Forest from doing harm to other York students? I cannot see that they will.

By allowing Forest, convicted or not, back on our campus, the President has invited further unfortunate incidents.

Richard T. Linley
 Stong College

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