

# Editorial

## Action on S. Africa signals reawakening of political interest

In past years a running gag at *Excalibur* was that if there was no other subject on which to editorialize, editors could always rant about the widespread apathy at York. In 1985-86, however, that situation has changed; students and faculty have again become active in political and social causes to an extent not seen since the late 1970s, and this reborn activism is producing results.

This week, because of the combined efforts of the York University Divestment Committee, a coalition of students and campus unions, political activism at York is on the verge of scoring its greatest victory in recent years; the divestment of approximately \$20-million worth of investments made from York's Pension Fund in companies with operations in repressive South Africa. If the All-University Pension Committee does decide to divest its South Africa-linked holdings, as it almost certainly will, York will become only the second university in Canada to take such a stand.

What makes the divestment initiative at York even more impressive is that people who stand to lose, if the pension fund divests, are among the most active advocates of a divestment policy.

Also worthy of honorable mention is York's administration. At other Canadian universities, administrations have either ignored or hampered divestment movements, most notably at U of T, but at York the pin-stripers on the ninth floor not only cooperated with the divestment committee, they actively supported them by helping find documentation of York's investments in South Africa-linked companies. President Harry Arthurs, in fact, expressed his personal support for the work of the divestment committee and even committed the administration to voting for adopting a policy of divestment.

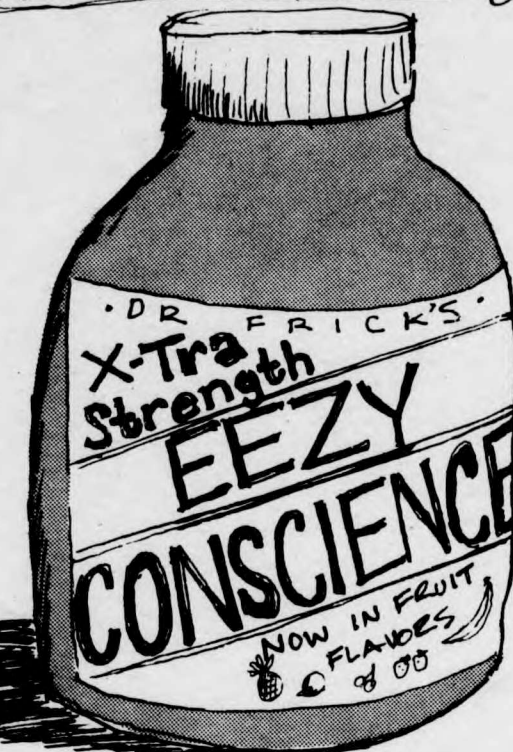
The greatest credit, however, must go to the students of York, and particularly those working in the York Student Movement Against Apartheid organization. Formed in September, 1984, YSMAA not only provided the original impetus for York's divestment campaign, but was also central in founding the Anti-Apartheid Coalition of Toronto this summer, which has successfully lobbied the city of Toronto to divest its holdings in South-Africa-linked enterprises.

From this new burst of political involvement, York is plainly demonstrating, as YSMAA co-chairperson David Himbara puts it, "a centre of progressive action" in Toronto and Ontario in a way that other universities have failed to do.

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Winner of OCNA Award for General Excellence in Advertising 1984

## Letters

### Lit-mag editors lack professionalism: CAB

**Editor:**  
The Creative Arts Board passes no judgement on the artistic merits of the magazine *Fuck Poetry*. However, we recognize the editors' misrepresentation and lack of professionalism in dealing with bodies funding the project and contributors' interests.

CAB is reviewing a policy for investigating professionalism, integrity and artistic merits of any Fine Arts projects submitted for funding to CYSF.

Through the implementation of this policy we aim to support the interests of York students and their good name.

*The Creative Arts Board*

### Take active role in OFS campaign: Blink

**Editor:**  
Later this month students who are council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) affiliates will have the opportunity to decide our membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

This referendum gives students a chance to democratically decide their membership in OFS; it was a long fight to

take this decision out of the hands of CYSF and place it with the students.

It is important that students take an active role in this campaign.

*Gerard Blink*  
Student Coordinator  
OFS Support Committee

### Ainger's directions up to CCGM: Winter

**Editor:**  
In your report on the Ainger Coffee Shop you cite some of Provost Meininger's musings on whether "student enterprises should be allowed to run a high loss?"

For almost fifteen years the Ainger Coffee Shop catered to a particular clientele on the York campus. Essentially they were the people who were folksy, vegetarian and artistic. It drew a community from across the campus to the Common Room and was, at one time, one of the major instruments through which Calumet maintained itself in a relatively remote location. The General Meeting was always aware that this activity had a cost, and wisely decided to incur it.

Times change and fashions change, sometimes with alarming abruptness. Though we may regret the passing of the

granola days, we now have a different clientele, and a different Ainger which has both meat and profits. If another decade brings another style and the General Meeting is once again faced with decision whether to incur losses we might hope that those decisions will be as intelligent as they were in the past. What is more important, however, is that they should be taken by the College community, not by the central administration.

*Eric Winter*

### Fyfe beats his own drum

**Editor:**  
I noticed with interest that R.D. MacPherson mentioned my name again last week, "...I'm a Fyfe fan." R.D. should note with interest then, that it is not my work that is referred to so often by *Sports Illustrated*, but the work of another artist, Yves Rouselle. And it is *Jane's Weekly Aviation Review*, not the ever popular "manifesto-format" that dictates that art must be considered "more unfortunate than nasty, mean and dark."

*Your humble servant,*  
*Peter Fyfe,*  
*Visual Arts.*