

Divestment

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the move could legally sue the Board of Trustees. After obtaining legal advice in May 1986, the trustees decided not to divest holdings in South Africa.

Since then, however, the percentage YPF funds invested in South Africa has significantly declined.

"It wasn't necessarily a financial judgement call on our part," Small said. "The bulk of the change has taken place because companies with

interests in South Africa have discontinued their operations there. Its part of a wider general business community trend."

Stevenson, ex-chair of the YDC was pleased with YUPF's progress, but added, "although the Pension Fund is in effect divested, we hoped that the Trustees would have moved in advance (of business community trend toward divestment)."

He added that he is still concerned that some Pension Funds are still invested in companies with South African interests.

Small said that the Trustees are "doing the best they can" to com-

plete the divestment process. He explained that a total withdrawal of these funds is contingent on two factors. Either companies that the YUPF has invested in remove their South African interests, or the provincial government passes proposed legislation (Bill 9) which would enable the trustees to dispose of their investments in companies with South African investments, while being protected from any potential lawsuits.

The Bill has had one reading and the Board of Trustees is awaiting the government's decision before proceeding any further.

Reform questions still unanswered

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political speeches, and other flacid texts that communicate nothing.

In reducing everything to the evanescent idea of an attitude problem, Lané does not provide us with any critical insight but only generates the predictable laudatory comments expected of a favourite son.

It's definitely not an attitude problem. University students across Canada must act and react to larger social and economic forces that place them, especially those in the social sciences and Fine Arts, in tenuous positions for securing employment in their select fields. This in turn reflects upon their personal stance toward university life.

Compare the attitudes of students in the mid-'60s to attitudes in the recession-plagued '80s. Is the university the sole container for student interests both long- and short-term? Or do these outside social pressures emphasize over and over again the conservative tendency that university life is merely a *transitional stage* in a student's career and that the larger battle to be waged is "out there."

Here I am only extending Lane's pragmatic instrumental reasoning to its logical conclusion. If student government is to be structured upon a more rational, pragmatic premise, what are necessarily the constraints that make it only an affair between students and their individual attitudes toward their representatives?

There are no such constraints. The university no longer acts as a unifying structure, the sole container of a student's perceptive and practical orientation. It has become subsumed under a larger social sphere and this is precisely the tension that today's university student feels most acutely.

Unlike students whose structural niche is to interpret law statutes, a fairly positivist state function, other social science graduates face a future less *necessary and structured*. Rarely do you find senior and junior partners in a sociology firm. The

same goes for many other social sciences where society beckons them only indirectly and faintly, and thus a constant battle with uncertainty and anxiety must be waged.

The dominant neo-conservative mood realizes itself in "practical" institutions that pertain to the here-and-how concreteness of everyday experience. University education is then seen strictly as a meal ticket, and its relation to society turns instrumental and technocratic. A review of research grants to York University confirms this.

Lané's mindset sees a potential homogeneity everywhere. His "new attitude" will spring from a more conscientious bureaucratic elite who can possibly reach out and touch students safely in a centred subjectivity, contained within the university which becomes a second home.

Lané seeks to tap into the idyllic 1950s and copy their sense of fraternity: of school letters, powder blue crew neck sweaters, and toga parties. But Frank Sinatra's voice has since turned to sand and Doris Day got pregnant. Yes, we make our own history, Mr. Lané, but not necessarily under conditions of our own choosing. The conditions today reflect a logic that sees the university function more and more as a sophisticated technical training centre, purging the arts and social sciences of any "mystical deviations."

Lané unreflectively hitches a ride with the Cunning of Reason that purges and reallocates just as much in its silent dispatches as in its instrumental thrusts. It is these lacunae that escape the attention of Lané. In large part, President Arthurs' reform package is inconsequential because of its inability to address the larger issues that really affect student life.

Rearranging the structures of bureaucracy, as he proposes, is likely to win kudos from close buddies and policy administrators. But had President Arthurs used his narrow and parochial framework more crea-

tively he could have just as well produced a White Paper promoting an on-campus dating service, which at least would have aroused more attention.

Student apathy toward the White Paper is less an indifference to York and how it is to operate, than a genuine concern about how the future is to unfold "out there." This is where a student's future is necessarily impelled, where one's objective interests lie. The necessary link between these interests and his or her campus political representation has not been dealt with, due to a fetish for more efficient structures of centralized paper-pushing. This is a shame.

York University still has the capacity to be a vibrant institution, due in large part to its relative youth — meaning that generations and traditions of the dead do not impress upon us a totalizing straightjacket conformity which have rendered many other universities — particularly that "other" university — so staid and predictable.

If the same fate is not to befall York then not only must answers be sought, but questions too must be sought for the so-called immediately-presentable-answers. It is a two-way process. This is what makes for progress, for a cutting edge that students can relate and react to. These answers and questions have not been addressed, thus rendering the President's White Paper a nullity, a non-event.

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