

editorial

# Naosaki's negligence

York's administration acted fairly and correctly in denying coach and professor Maasaki Naosaki's request to accompany gymnast Curtis Hibbert to the Commonwealth Games.

Existing departmental policy limits absences by faculty members to one week (without extenuating circumstances) during the academic year. Naosaki had already exceeded these limits in September when he was granted two weeks leave on short notice to attend the World Championships.

Although it's a shame that Naosaki cannot accompany Hibbert, a sure medal contender in several disciplines, he has only his own negligence to blame.

In August, he failed to respond to a simple request from Stu Robbins, chairman of the department of physical education, athletics and recreation, to outline any possible national and international coaching commitments. After being granted the two weeks earlier in the term, Naosaki requested additional time off for the Commonwealth Games and was denied. Naosaki defended the late request, claiming that he was only named team coach and manager for the event on December 18.

However any coach familiar with the selection process could have anticipated this appointment. Also, the administration responded promptly to the request of December 18. Robbins' decision was filed on December 20, but Naosaki failed to check his mail box until January 4.

While Naosaki continued to explore avenues that would allow him to manipulate policy, Hibbert went to the media; a move that he must have known would bring outside pressure on York to let Naosaki sidestep his academic responsibilities. Despite strong anti-administrative sentiments expressed by the major newspapers, the administration has firmly upheld its position. Hibbert has since been convinced to reverse his decision and has joined his teammates in Auckland.

The Canadian Gymnastics Federation (CGF) is also not entirely blameless. Naosaki is not paid by the CGF for his expertise but the Federation continuously expects him to juggle his academic and coaching duties. The CGF has long ignored requests from York for a commitment to future planning, so these problems can be avoided. The York administration again asked for such a commitment in a last-ditch bargaining effort on December 11. York's request for the CGF to contribute one-third of Naosaki's term salary (about 8,000) was rejected, since January 11 was the deadline for any coaching substitutions.

Naosaki has filed an appeal for arbitration through the York University Faculty Association (YUFA), even though the CGF has sent coach Michel Venne as his replacement. Brian Abner, chair of YUFA, said his organization "questions the validity of the administration's policy, the application of the policy, and the fairness of the policy, and whether it is an appropriate policy."

But, in the unlikely event that the university's decision is overturned, there are no funds left for Naosaki. Venne is already in Auckland.

Both the media and the York community at large have ignored the fact that it is the university that is in a no-win situation. As it stands, a prominent member of the Canadian gymnastics team will be without his personal coach. If York were to "Let Nao Go," the academic integrity of the physical education programme (that is protected by the policy) would be jeopardized.

The Commonwealth Games open on January 24.

by Pam Serkowney

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EDITORIAL: 736-5239  
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MAILING ADDRESS:  
Room 111, Central Square  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
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## letters

### Donato not at memorial

Dear Editors:

I attended the Scott Religious Centre's December service for the 14 women massacred at the University of Montreal, and I would like to commend all organizers. It was moving and spoke real truth without sentimentalizing, trivializing, or exploiting the tragedy.

I wish my purpose in writing was simply to express positive thoughts; however, as I looked around the crowded room after the 14 candles were lit and many of us were holding hands singing "We Shall Overcome," I felt a sense of frustration and anger. I saw that most of the males in attendance were not students, but faculty.

Notable in his absence was Peter Donato, President of the CYSF and representative of over 44,000 York University students. Since I went by CYSF offices directly following the service and spoke to him about it, I know he was not prevented from attending because of any previous engagement.

There has been a lot of discussion following this tragedy about the rampant sexism in society. Education and understanding will change attitudes most effectively. But if those who currently benefit from the inequalities between males and females do not participate in the debates, we will not reach any positive solutions. I am deeply disappointed that Peter Donato did not attend this service, given the fact that he is a political figure on campus.

I also find it unacceptable that the CYSF has not issued any statement to the press about the massacre, expressing condolences to the family and friends of the victims on behalf of the York student body. York is one of the three largest universities in Canada, and the universities must speak

out. These are troubling times for feminists, men and women, who fight against sexism inherent in all social institutions.

I would like to make my final comment a positive one. I commend the CYSF for granting service status to the Women's Centre and I am cautiously optimistic that this move will lead to greater support and funding from the CYSF for the Centre in the future. It is through services such as the Women's Centre that all students will become aware of the issues that still must be addressed to achieve equality.

Mary Jankulak

### Smoking policy problems

Dear Editors:

When the university first implemented its smoking policy, segregating smokers from non-smokers, as a non-smoking member of the staff, I was very happy. I am now disappointed and disgusted with York's smoking policy for a number of reasons.

First, it is clear that people feel free to smoke in non-smoking areas such as the one just outside the Ross cafeteria, one of the main traffic areas inside York. Second, by not establishing smoking areas that are thoroughly vented to the outside and not used for purposes other than smoking, for example, as a passageway, like the sixth floor bridge between Ross South and North, the university is responsible for subjecting non-smokers to concentrated smoke-filled areas.

Third, while people passing through the Ross Building can alter their routes to avoid smoke-filled areas, workers in the building are not so lucky. The university is subjecting the two women selling Tim Horton doughnuts, in

the smoking section of Curtis, to an extreme health hazard. These workers are in this smoke-filled area all day, and unlike the smokers themselves, cannot leave the area.

Another example is provided by the cashiers in the Ross cafeteria whose registers are near the smoking side of the cafeteria.

The purpose of a non-smoking policy should be to protect non-smokers, especially workers who have little control over their environment, from cigarette smoke. A good non-smoking policy should also be progressive. That is, it should be designed to protect smokers from excessive smoke, encourage them to smoke less and to give up smoking entirely. In this regard, the university, which is supposed to be an alma mater concerned with education, could do a great deal.

We could have some anti-smoking posters here and there. We could invite the Department of Public Health to do educational sessions in the bearpits. We could measure the level of carbon monoxide in smoking areas of the university and in people's lungs. We could more pointedly inform students, especially women, that the rate of lung cancer has caught up with and is now surpassing that of breast cancer.

We could tell students how the cigarette companies have them and their younger, junior and senior high school brothers and sisters targeted, especially girls. Smoking is a health issue for all, a feminist issue for women, and even a development issue for the Third World.

Unless the university can provide vented smoking areas inside buildings, smokers should be asked to go outdoors. The University of Toronto has this policy and so does Mount Sinai Hospital.

Sincerely yours,  
Eileen Simmons  
Department of Social Science