

## Pension Trustees delay divestment

By JAMES FLAGAL

The divestment of York's pension fund of \$9 million in South-African-linked investments, endorsed by the committee that represents pension beneficiaries on January 22, was indefinitely delayed by the Pension Fund Board of Trustees of York's Board of Governors at a meeting last week.

The Pension Trustees, who have the final say regarding the management of the pension fund told a disappointed and angry group of students and faculty who waited in "vigil" outside the Glendon committee room March 5th that they needed to look further into the question of divestment before acting.

"There was serious discussion in the meeting tonight concerning divestment" Pension Trustee chairman Edward Kernaghan said after the meeting. "However before we can act we must clarify the legal ramifications of divestment. It's just not that easy."

Instead of passing the motion to divest, which was recommended to the Board by the All University Pension Committee (AUPC) following their meeting on January 22, the Pension Trustees passed three motions relating to divestment. The first motion recognized apartheid as 'abhorrent' and disclaimed the South African government for the utilization of such a discriminating policy. The second motion requested all members of the board to submit a proposal on the consequences of divestment in their specific sector of the pension fund, and the third required that upon receiving these proposals the board would seek legal advice on divestment.

Kernaghan said that the board was unanimous on disclaiming apartheid and desiring to investigate the motion to divest the fund.

The Secretary to the Pension Trustees, Bill Small, stressed that the fact that proposed divestment at York is from a pension fund is problematic. "People must understand that there is a distinction here, that no univer-

sity has ever enacted such a motion on their pension funds," Small told the group. "I believe York's attempt to consider the action puts her above the rest of the institutions, like the University of Toronto's Board of Trustees who are extremely reluctant to deal with the sloppy legalities of divestment."



Edward Kernaghan

Kernaghan said that the greatest concern the Trustees have at this point is with the legal implications of divestment. "True, probably 99 percent (of the fund's beneficiaries) support the motion of divestment, but what legal actions can we as trustees take to protect us from that other one percent from suing us?" Kernaghan said.

But reaction from divestment supporters was bitter. "It was quite a shock to learn that the Board of Trustees did not even consider advice that it requested from the AUDC in January" said Gene Desfor, a professor in Environmental Studies and co-chairman of the York University Divestment Committee (YUDC). "Technically this meeting should have been just a formality" to approve the motion Desfor said.

David Himbara, who shares the chairmanship of the YUDC with Desfor, was equally disillusioned following the meeting. "How can they say apartheid is abhorrent and not reinforce these words with the action of divestment?" Himbara asked. "YUFA (the York University Faculty Association), YUSA (York University Staff Association) and even President Arthurs supported the initiative—why didn't it pass?" he said.

Small said that a special meeting of the Pension Trustees will be held "as soon as complete information is available," which he guessed would be by the end of next month.

## Glendon to phase out unilingualism

By SUSAN SPERLING

The Glendon College Faculty Council (GCFC) has passed a motion to phase out English speaking students by 1990.

Glendon presently has 758 students who are unilingual, or speak English only. There are 1794 students registered at Glendon for the 1985-86 academic year.

In 1965 Glendon College opened at Bayview and Lawrence Avenues as a bilingual campus. However, in 1971, all of York University, especially Glendon, was hit by severely low enrolment. At that time, Glendon began accepting unilingual students to increase their enrolment.

Charles Kellan, director of Academic Affairs for the Glendon College Student Union (GCSU), is a unilingual student who has served on the GCFC for four years. Kellan told *Excalibur* that Glendon's acceptance of unilingual students was always intended as a temporary measure. "It was always intended to be phased out," he said. "Now, enrollments are strong enough to do it."

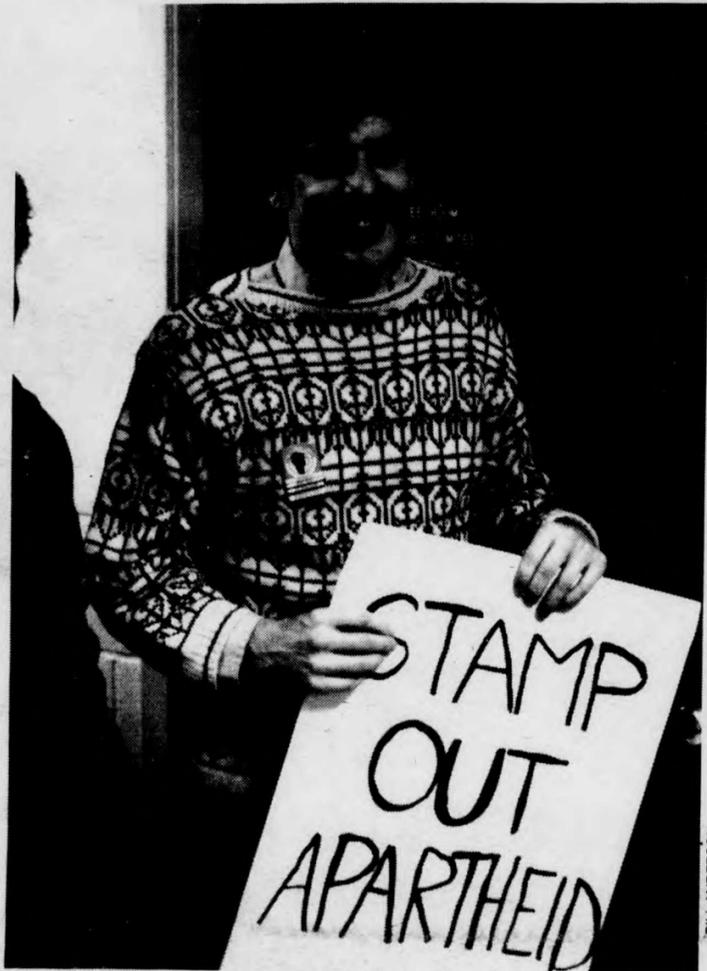
Neil Orford, a Glendon student senator and unilingual student, is also a proponent of the motion. "We're going back to what Glendon was originally set up for. Bilingualism has become a very popular thing again."

Orford said that the origins of the motion go back to 1980 when Philippe Garigue was appointed principal of Glendon College. Garigue's job, Orford said, was to make Glendon more cost-efficient. Orford said he believed that returning to bilingualism is one way toward cost-efficiency.

"The provincial government felt that there was very little difference between York's three arts faculties (York, Atkinson, Glendon)," Orford said, adding, "Glendon had to offer something different. We had to make ourselves more marketable."

Kellan said that the motion was passed almost unanimously (one vote against and one abstention) by the GCFC, which is comprised of all Glendon faculty and 10 percent of the students. "There was a predominance of unilingual students on council when it was passed," he said, "but unilingual rights will not be taken away."

In practical terms, it means that if the motion is passed by senate, Glendon will not accept any more unilingual students as early as September of 1987. However, unilingual students already at Glendon will be able to continue studying in English for as long as they are attending Glendon.



BILL ANDERSON

Gene Desfor, co-chairman of the York University Divestment Committee outside the Pension Committee meeting.

## Moratorium sought on York Star Wars research

By LORNE MANLY

The York Senate has requested that President Harry Arthurs place a moratorium on York accepting any research agreements involving the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI, also known as Star Wars) until the University community has a chance to fully analyze and discuss the issues.

The Senate made its request after a motion to disallow research into SDI at the University that was to be voted on at its February 27 meeting: encountered opposition because of its wording and intent.

The SDI, unveiled by President Ronald Reagan three years ago, is a defensive strategy based on space-age weaponry designed to intercept and destroy incoming missiles. The plan has aroused a great deal of controversy around the world due to questions of its technical feasibility as well as its possible destabilizing

effects on the arms race. The Canadian Government decided last year against supporting the SDI but left Canadian companies and universities free to accept contracts in the programme.

According to Professor Allan Hutchinson, the chairman of the Senate Committee of Research, the Senate decided that "due to the seriousness of the matter, the issues (in the SDI debate) must be fully aired and discussed...in a stipulated short period."

"(The Senate) didn't want to appear as if it was sidestepping the issue or sweeping it under the carpet," Hutchinson continued, "so it asked the President to declare a moratorium in the time before the Faculty Council's report back in May."

The motion to prevent York from accepting any contracts for SDI research was moved by sociology professor Michael Lanphier and seconded by Allan Stauffer, a professor of physics, and was to be voted on at the February 27 Senate meeting before complications arose.

"The spectre of Star Wars is a challenge to the University," Lanphier said. "The concentration of research funds in one organization (the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, SDIO, established by the American Department of Defense which is responsible for the co-ordination and approval of all SDI related funding) dictates the subject matter and output of the research. It also determines the type of publication one can publish in or if one can publish in any publication at all."

It is this question of publishability of research that was one of the re-

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## Guelph Provost meets with Ali to discuss student government

By LAURA LUSH

The consultant conducting a study on the future of student government at York met with CYSF President Reya Ali last Thursday to sound out Ali's perceptions of the present system of government.

Provost Paul Gilmor of Guelph University was appointed last January by the Student Relations Committee (SRC) of the Board of Governors (BOG) to conduct the first-ever review of student government at York.

Gilmor said the purpose of his visit was to inform himself on the issues and concerns of the student leaders at York. "My plan is to get to as many of the student leaders as possible," he said, "to record their impressions and perceptions of the existing student government."

Ali provided Gilmor with various student government documents and studies compiled throughout the year. In addition, he expressed some of his perceptions and concerns about student government at York, but "was not prepared to give a public comment on these perceptions at this time."

Ali said he will make his recommendations to Gilmor concerning the New Model of student government pending the passing of its by-laws. "His (Gilmor's) opinion of the

New Model will carry a lot of weight," he said.

Although Gilmor said he has seen all the documentation on the New Model, he has not studied it yet. "Initially my task is to get enough information and facts together to understand the complexities of the government at York," he said.

Ali said Gilmor will be addressing the purpose and role of a student government at York to determine a new model of government that would best serve the student constituencies.

Ali said one of his prime concerns for a new government involves the "entire question of commuter students and how they can be better assimilated into the system."

Another concern of Ali's is the question of student government financing. Gilmor will determine if student government should be funded through grants or a student activity fee. Presently CYSF receives \$18.50 per student allocated from the university's operating budget grant. "We have the worst budget in the system, as far as I can tell," Ali said. York's 1985-86 CYSF budget was \$235,000, compared to Carleton's \$1.1-million, Western's \$2.6-million, and Wilfred Laurier's \$1.2-million budget.

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