

# Petition demands retraction of Physics Journal article

by Jennifer Lim

**Y**ork faculty and staff have filed a petition demanding the retraction of an offensive article printed in the Canadian Journal of Physics in September 1989.

The petition claims that the article "does not comprise Physics nor does it employ scientific methodology" and calls for assurance "that this kind of misuse of a government supported academic journal will not happen again."

The petition is addressed to the National Research Council, the federal government agency which publishes the CJP.

The article, "Kinetics of nonhomogeneous processes in human society: Unethical behaviour and societal chaos" is written by University of Alberta Professor Gordon Freeman.

Freeman attributes societal ills such as exam cheating and mass murders to mothers who work outside the home.

"Under the subject of science, the article is utter rubbish," said Physics professor Stan Jeffers, who signed the petition. "The damn thing should be repunged."

Selma Zimmerman, York's advisor on the status of women and the petition's author, said the journal should be reprinted without the article. "While it sits there, it can be used as a reference and it authenticates the procedure and it validates the contents."

Ralph Nicholls, editor of the CJP and a York physics professor, said he has no intention of retracting the article.

"This issue is over as far as I'm concerned. The protest is largely motivated by political correctness.

None of the people who signed that [the petition] made any attempt to talk to me about the matter, and that's vulgar."

Freeman's article was published in a special issue comprised of papers presented at a conference on chaos theory.

After Freeman confirmed that his paper was presented at the conference, it was refereed and then published by the NRC. However, according to Nicholls, "we found out after it had been published that it had not been presented, so we had been misled."

Dr. B. Dancik, editor-in-chief of the NRC, published a disclaimer last June stating that the Freeman article "does not comprise science and has no place in a scientific journal."

But Nicholls said he would not remove the article from the journal.

"To republish the issue, from an academic standpoint, is absolutely wrong. Because it [the article] isn't quantitative, it does not mean that it is not science."

Zimmerman compared the article to hate literature and said should not remain in circulation.

"Freeman's opinion is an attack on women's personal freedom. This can be looked upon as inciting a kind of hatred and violence against women."

The petition also called for the resignation of Nicholls as editor of the CJP.

According to NRC officer Steve Prud'homme, Nicholls' six-year term is up at the end of March and the NRC is seeking a replacement.

According to Jeffers, the department of physics at York has dissociated themselves from Freeman's views.

## Women condemn date rape acquittal

by Krishna Rau  
Canadian University Press

**TORONTO** — In the wake of a December acquittal in one of Canada's first campus date rape trials, women's groups say universities must take far stronger action.

Robert Van Oostrom, a graduate of Queen's University, was charged last fall with four counts of sexual assault against three women between 1987 and 1989. Van Oostrom was a Queen's engineering student at the time, and all the complainants were Queen's students.

The women testified that Van Oostrom ignored their refusal to have sex. Van Oostrom testified each of the women consented to sex with him.

Women in Kingston staged protests after the decision, which the crown is appealing. The crown attorney has since been criticized for saying the judge in the case refused to recognize the seriousness of date rape.

Women's groups said the decision could make it even harder for women who had been raped by an acquaintance to go to the police.

"Women aren't going to come forward if they think their trials are just going to be thrown out, anyway," said a member of the Queen's Women's Centre.

But other groups felt the extensive coverage of the trial and the actions of the crown might prompt more women to come forward.

"In a situation like this, we would encourage women to report date rape or assault," said Susan Bazilli, the legal director of the Toronto-based Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Chil-

dren. "The crown attorney and the prosecution were very supportive."

"The publicity around the trial might make university administrations recognize that they have a lot of work to do.

"They can't turn a blind eye to it. They have to take responsibility for what goes on in their own community."

Susan Addario, the University of Toronto's safety officer, said universities have to take notice of the attitudes of judges and others within the legal system, and work to change them.

"I'm not saying they (judges) are neanderthals, misogynists or dinosaurs. They just haven't heard about the experiences of women.

"The university should be wondering whether we should be taking an active role in judicial training."

She said universities have to decide whether they want to entrust assault cases to the legal system or deal with them internally.

But she said universities still have a lot of thinking to do about how to handle such cases.

"Do we want to take people who are engaging in sexually abusive behaviour and exclude them from the community?"

"Do we want to ask them to do some kind of community work which would heal in a more psychic way?"

Bazilli said the recent media spotlight on rape trials might force universities to make those decisions.

She said the Van Oostrom trial, as well as the William Kennedy Smith date rape trial in Florida, and the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision to strike down the "rape shield" law illustrated the need for more action around sexual assault.

"Sexual harassment policies are now part of the policy structure of most universities. Let's take that one step further with sexual assault cases."

## Prez search irks Senate

by Sara Singer

The controversial task of finding a new York president is entering its final stages, according to members of the search committee.

York President Harry Arthurs announced in May that he would return to teaching law at Osgoode Hall at the end of this term. He has held the top executive position since 1984.

The presidential search committee, composed of members of the university Senate and Board of Governors, expects to have a shortlist of candidates ready within two months.

"We started out with approximately a hundred candidates and our objective is to get down to a short list by the end of February or beginning of March," said John Bankes, chair of the search committee.

"For the next couple weeks we will be actively engaged in interviewing."

According to Bankes, the committee has been meeting every week to review candidates according to a fixed set of criteria. The criteria include items such as the familiarity of the candidate with York culture, Bankes said.

"We are giving consideration to those candidates who know York well," said Bankes, "but we are also looking outside York at other univer-

sities, the civil service, businesses, and even candidates external to Canada."

In November the search committee hired Landmark Consulting, a private 'headhunting' firm, to seek applicants from other universities and the private sector.

Once the short list is finalized, it will be presented to the university Board of Governors, who are then responsible for appointing a new president. The board will consult with the university senate on the appointment through a ballot procedure.

Members of the senate said they do not consider the system fair.

Sidney Kanya-Forstner, a history professor who sits on the senate, said the balloting system does not allow the senate to express their response fairly, since they are limited in their choices.

Justin Linden, chair of the student senator caucus, expressed similar concern about the accuracy of the ballot procedure.

"Unfortunately the voice of the senate is limited since we can't give a qualitative answer", said Linden, "however, I do not doubt the capabilities of the search committee".

Linden added that the process should be more open in general and greater involvement from the senate should be encouraged.

## Privatizing plans for student loans draw scorn

Canadian University Press

**OTTAWA** — The federal government's move to privatize the daily operations of the federal student loan program is a bad idea, student representatives say.

The trend towards turning government-run programs over to the private sector results in "control (moving) further and further away from the government," said Carl Gillis, a Carleton University student councillor.

Gillis said as the government severs itself from the administration of the Canada Student Loan Program, its responsibility to students is "watered down."

Contracting-out the daily operations and bookkeeping of the CSLP

was first announced in 1989 as a "cost-effective" way to deliver the program. The government will soon open up bidding on the contract.

Several CSLP activities have already been tendered including data entry, computer systems operations and support, collections and litigation.

"I'm suspicious of contracting out programs to private companies because (their interests in profit) will make the system less flexible for students," said Jocelyn Charron, Canadian Federation of Students communications officer.

The government will still be responsible for determining and guaranteeing the loans, said Laurent Marcoux, a federal policy advisor on student aid.

Mark Hudson, press attache for

Secretary of State Robert de Cotret — the minister responsible for student loans — said students won't apply to a private company for a loan. The privatization is for paperwork that is "after the fact," he said.

But he added the government is considering several options to change the loan program, including privatizing the entire plan.

"I'm sure there would be some concerns expressed there (but) private companies can be more fiscally responsible," Hudson said.

Federal government figures show that more than 200,000 students borrow money under the program each year — about 50 per cent of Canadian students. Approximately \$2.7 billion is currently owed to banks by current and former students.

## Bad news from Queen's Park

Just as *Excilibur* went to press, the provincial government announced its post-secondary education budget for the year ahead. Here's the bad news: a seven per cent tuition increase (you'll be paying about \$120 more in September) and a one per cent increase in university funding — the lowest in recorded history, way lower than inflation. Look here for detailed doomsaying next week.

## Bryden spent 28 years with York

by Elaine Bellio

Bruce Bryden, Chair of the York Board of Governors, died suddenly on January 14 at the age of 49.

Mr. Bryden has long been a member in the York community.

He was a member of York's first entering class of students, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and he continued to contribute to the York community throughout his association with it.

Harry Arthurs, President of York University, said that Mr. Bryden's association with York was "marked by passionate enthusiasm."

William Dimma, acting chair of the Board, said Mr. Bryden "was a board chairman who took his responsibilities very, very seriously. He went far beyond the call of duty. He loved York a good deal."

"York University has lost a friend and its finest advocate," Arthurs said.

At the Jan. 17 funeral, Arthurs said he wants to "acknowledge and honour Mr. Bryden as a husband and father and brother, as a member of the York family, as my friend and comrade in arms."

Our deepest sympathy goes out to all those who were close to Mr. Bryden: to his wife Kathy and to his daughter Joanna.