

Letters Cont'd

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individuals who make up the university community, the position of the university is fundamentally different in nature." This suggests that the university as a corporate entity could hold a view to which the majority of the individuals comprising it are opposed.

Mr. President, one of the cardinal principles in liberal-democratic societies is that individuals acting in concert can affect the outcome of corporate decisions, especially where such individuals constitute a majority. It is astonishing that the President of the leading university in Canada would hold that the views of individuals in the university regarding divestment are of no conse-

quence to its decision.

We now turn to the on-going controversy over the re-invitation of the South African Ambassador to the University of Toronto.

According to you it is imperative that you re-invite the Ambassador in conformity to the Governing Council's 1974 Statement on the Protection of Freedom of Speech.

We in ANSIT firmly believe that Freedom of Speech is a very important principle. However, in this case, it is neither the primary nor the only issue. From time to time, conflicts do arise among principles. Here we have such a case. It is generally agreed that freedom is never unbounded. Kahane has been denied an entry visa, both Zundel and Keegstra have been convicted; all these

establish that under law and practice Freedom of Speech is not absolute. In this present case, the principle of free speech must be weighed against the danger of permitting to speak of the representative of a regime that not only believes in, but is also entirely built on racism and hatred directed against the blacks in South Africa in particular and black people the world over. The views of the South African Ambassador are inseparable from the views of the racist government he represents.

ANSIT does not believe that apartheid is an issue for debate.

Dennis A. Ityavyar,
President

Malam Femi Taiwo,
Secretary-General



By MARTIN ZARNETT

I still remember it vividly. "About 20 percent of you failed the first exam," bellowed John Ridpath, my introductory economics professor. Luckily, the *Zone* was among the other 75 percent, but that was my welcome York University. And in the years since the *Zone* started university, I don't think things have gotten very much better.

It's not easy for a first-year stu-

dent, especially if he or she is a commuter student. Isolation in first year at York for a commuter student is not an isolated experience. Just try to adjust to a classroom of 500 when the average class in high school is 30. Many students have problems with their academics right from the start. And for the commuter student who does not have a college to go back to, a day begun in the Curtis Lecture halls is ended with a bus ride home.

Commuter students are by far the majority on campus, yet how can commuter students get "connected" with other students? It is true that every student is a member of a college, but unfortunately the colleges are not geared toward the commuter student. The majority of colleges are geared for the residence student.

Vanier, Stong, Winters, and other "residential colleges" (those that have residences as part of the college) provide for some interaction between residence and commuter students, but by and large it is minimal. The vast majority of commuter students never participate in college activities. While there are many reasons for this the main ones are the college is not convenient to the central core of the campus (*i.e.* Ross), commuter students are intimidated by the residence students and activities planned often are later in the evening when many commuter students have to be going home.

However, there is one commuter undergraduate college. It is Calumet. Unfortunately, because of their lack of facilities they have difficulty in providing the type of services needed. In addition, the Calumet General Meeting has organizational problems which have not helped their members over the years.

On the other hand, Osgoode Hall's Legal and Literary Society has done an excellent job of integrating both commuter and resident (grad residence) students. For example, right from the first day each section of the first year class is split into groups which consist of approximately 10 people. These 10 people have four upper year students to assist them all year long. And each group has a faculty advisor which they can seek help from. But, it must be remembered that each section consists of 60 not 600 students.

The colleges have failed to initiate the first year student by and large. They have been given tremendous amounts of money to maintain the status quo; that is they have reached out only to their residence students, not all of their students. On the other hand the thinly funded clubs have filled the gaps. The Chinese Students Association, the Italian-Canadian Association, AISEC, etc. have done much to alleviate problems, but tend to isolate students on the lines of language and ethnic origin. In fact, one group, the Caribbean Students Association in their constitution last year denied membership on the basis of national origin. I hope this practice has been amended in their constitution. These groups have only been able to integrate students at CYSF's successful multi-cultural nights.

Obviously a stronger central student government with the facilities to provide for commuter students in a large scale way is needed. For example Manus, CYSF's official guide book, is an excellent beginning but more needs to be added. Only when the administration through the office of the Provost realizes the seriousness of this problem will things begin to change. And change they must.

Don't forget to vote YES on the OFS referendum. (*i.e.* in favor of opting out) Keep our money in the student's hands at York.



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