



GARY BLAKELEY

Glendon College Student Union Vice President Jas Ahmad denies writing letter to Excalibur despite handwriting expert's findings.

Pension fund divestment may hit BOG roadblock

By DAVID BYRNES

The total divestment of York's pension fund from South Africa-linked companies, voted for by the All University Pension Committee (AUPC) January 22, may be facing an unexpected hurdle at the final level of approval.

Although the AUPC, which includes representatives of all constituent members of the pension fund, voted to totally divest an estimated 8-9 million from the fund within one year, their decision is contingent on that of the Pension Fund Board of Trustees committee of York's Board of Governors, which will meet for the first time since the AUPC vote next Wednesday to discuss the divestment motion.

The problem, according to Bill Small, Secretary to the Pension Fund Board of Trustees, is a "technical" one—that a divestment policy may conflict with the legal responsibility the Trustees have to maximize returns for the fund's beneficiaries. Since not all beneficiaries of the pension fund endorsed divestment, Small said, the university could not

ceivably face a law suit if divestment were to result in a lower investment return.

Small stressed that the Pension Trustees "are very much united and keen to take a stand" against apartheid, but are also bound to consider their legal responsibility.

David Himbara, co-chairman of the York University Divestment Committee, which drafted the divestment motion passed by the AUPC, has spoken out against Small by saying responsibility "is totally a red herring."

"A prudent person could also sue on the basis that South Africa's economy is basically in shambles, or on moral grounds" Himbara said. "If the logic of the Trustees is that their priority is to maximize returns, then they ought to be rushing from investment in South Africa."

Trustee Board Chairman Edward Kernaghan said he was not familiar with the motion to divest and therefore could not comment. "I can't respond to a motion that I haven't seen, nor would I wish to before I knew what it was" Kernaghan said.

Radio York station manager says theft may be 'inside job'

By JOEL GREEN

A theft from the Radio York offices discovered February 16 has left the station short of an estimated \$7,000 worth of their best broadcasting equipment.

CJRY Station Manager Mel Broitman said he suspects the theft was an "inside job" because the station was entered by use of a key kept in a nearby locker for the use of CJRY staff.

"A break-in like this is especially disturbing since it appears that information aiding the break-in came from inside the station" Broitman said.

Stolen were two turntables, a mic-

rophone, mixing board, power supply and two reel-to-reel tape recorders.

Much of the stolen equipment was acquired this year as part of upgrading efforts following the successful referendum for increased funding last year.

Broitman said that until the equipment is replaced through insurance coverage, CJRY will still be able to operate on-air, but will not be operative as a production studio.

York's Department of Security and Safety Services has turned over the investigation to Metro Police. The investigating officer could not be reached for comment by press time.

Glendon VP's signature matches phony letter praising own council

By GARY SYMONS

A professional handwriting analyst this week determined that a letter to the editor of *Excalibur*, purportedly written by six Glendon students and criticizing the October 31 *Zone* column, was actually written by Jas Ahmad, Vice-President of the Glendon College Student Union.

The letter, which claims *Excalibur* writer Martin Zarnett's opinion column was a "wholly speculative, insensitive and misinformed litany of accusations and insinuations against student leaders at Glendon," was signed with the names K.D. Smith, M. Gavvin, James Keagan, H. Cote, Marie Lalencette, and P. Roberts.

Shortly after the letter was published in the November 14 issue of *Excalibur*, however, a source requesting anonymity claimed the letter had been written by a member or members of Glendon's Student Council. Subsequent investigation by an *Excalibur* reporter showed, with one exception, that no students were enrolled at York University under those names. The one exception was Helene Cote, a Glendon student, but she denied any knowledge of the letter.

Members of the GCSU, including Ahmad, were then asked on November 19 if they had written the letter, but all knowledge of it was denied. And at a meeting of the GCSU that evening, Ahmad wrote on a blackboard: "There's no whore like an old whore." Brian Mulroney on Bryce Mackasey. Jas Ahmad on *Excalibur*."

Two weeks ago, *Excalibur* acquired a sample of Ahmad's handwriting and sent it to a court-qualified handwriting expert, Linda G. Pitney. According to Pitney's report, "After photographic and video comparison of the standard signature Jas Ahmad (sample known to belong to Jas Ahmad) to the suspect letter, the numerous similarities found in both indicate that both documents were written by the same person." Pitney's firm, The Canadian College of Kinesiology,

Security & Safety to put out brochure clarifying campus towing procedures

By DONOVAN VINCENT

Since a change in towing policy at York begun last year, there have been series of complaints from students over their cars being towed to an area inaccessible to public transportation. Cars parked illegally are now being towed to the Armstrong Pound near Keele and Highway Seven. Consequently, students must now pay for a taxi to get to their car as well as paying the pound for towing fees.

Director of Security and Safety Services Jack Santarelli said he regrets that some students have had to take taxis to retrieve their cars, but that the parking department "has to make people aware of the consequences of parking illegally." Santarelli also noted that cars are only towed off campus in cases where the driver has violated parking procedures more than twice.

But in a February 4 memorandum to the members of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Parking (of which Santarelli is a member) CYSF President Reya Ali complained that the guidelines for towing procedures are unclear, and that the Traffic

told *Excalibur* their findings were strong enough to stand as evidence in court.

When confronted with *Excalibur*'s new evidence, however, Ahmad still denied any knowledge of or involvement in the writing of the letter. "I am denying it," he said. "You want me to admit I'm guilty when I'm not."

Ahmad insisted the handwriting experts were meaningless. "That doesn't prove anything," he said. "Just because some hot-shot handwriting expert said it's the same handwriting doesn't mean I'm guilty."

"If you print something that implies that I had something to do with it, you'll be heading for trouble," Ahmad added, but did not specify what action he planned to take.

Zarnett said he was especially concerned by the self-congratulatory aspect of the letter, particularly the

statement in the letter saying, "... which other college can claim student leaders of the caliber of Wayne Burnett and Jas Ahmad? How can Mr. Zarnett question the integrity, albeit implicitly, of people who have proved themselves the most consistently exceptional leaders over the last four years?"

York Provost Tom Meininger said that, while writing letters under false pretenses breaks no specific regulations, "This kind of behavior would fall under a general umbrella of behavior we would not expect from members of the community."

"This kind of deception just smells bad," Meininger said, adding that he may look into the matter. "If wrong was done, I think we'd be looking at some kind of public apology," he said. "But if people are caught in this kind of activity then I think the most effective discipline will come from the court of public opinion."

The Editor:

re: Zone Special Report: Glendon an integral part of York (Oct. 31/85)

We note with sadness Mr. Zarnett's wholly speculative, insensitive and misinformed litany of accusations and insinuations against student leaders at Glendon. We also find it distasteful that an ex-BOG Representative (who was only seen at Glendon during his election campaign) should pretend to know more about us than our own leadership.

Perhaps Mr. Zarnett has walked on the Glendon campus in the spring and fall; perhaps he has eaten in the cafeteria and studied in the library; and perhaps he does know some "friendly" Glendon students (the patronizing was really quite unnecessary) Glendon students. This, however, is no basis to claim to know Glendon. We are a state of mind; not a per capita/percentage aggregate/net/gross type statistical figure. Mr. Zarnett obviously does not understand what this means.

Besides, which other college can claim student leaders of the caliber of Wayne Burnett and Jas Ahmad? How can Mr. Zarnett question the integrity, albeit implicitly, of people who have proved themselves the most consistently exceptional leaders over the last four years. We know what these people have done and what they are capable of, and we respect them. Mr. Zarnett will excuse us if we listen to proven leadership before calling conjecture.

Finally, if we felt our President (Kathie Damoch, by the way, received more than 50% of the popular vote in her election) was doing something against our wishes, we would let her know; it would be up to us to do something about it. We resent Mr. Zarnett's assumed role as patron saint of Glendon. It is a shame he does not realize that it is attitudes such as his which make us wary of the people at the Keele campus. Perhaps the next time Mr. Zarnett visits Glendon he will keep his eyes and ears open to what he has so far ignored.

Yours sincerely,
K.D. Smith, M. Gavvin, James Keagan, H. Cote, Marie Lalencette & P. Roberts

Letter appearing in October 31, 1985 edition of *Excalibur*

proper information are a large part of the problem, according to Santarelli. He said that a new brochure coming out in September will clarify the policy concerning on and off-campus towing.

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Poor communication and lack of