

Why students weren't heard in Itwaru affair

On the surface it seems as though Sociology Professor Arnold Itwaru's denial of a tenured-stream position is just another case of student voices going unheard. His qualifications seem to speak for themselves, especially when one considers the popularity which he commands among students. Didn't such things get taken into account by the Department? Probably, but perhaps not enough, and faculty within the Department are in no way entirely to blame. What should be the focus of criticism is the old system by which York currently operates, a system that is about to change for the better.

In 1977 the Sociology Department adopted a constitution which made provisions for undergraduate participation in the appointment of tenured positions. But, in order to make the system legitimate, students could only be appointed from a Sociology undergraduate association, an organization which has been defunct for the past few years. In fact, the association was supposed to have representation on all departmental committees including those which planned the curriculum, and regulated teaching conduct. So, it's not that student voices went unheard, it's that students failed to organize an important body which would guarantee students a voice in all areas of decision-making within the Department.

And so, while protestors continue to rally to the support of Professor Itwaru, they should begin to realize the grave importance of such undergraduate organizations, not only in Sociology, but in all university departments. In effect, these organizations become the voice in academic policy making. The reforms recently announced by President Arthurs promises to make the system more supportive of such organizations. With colleges becoming affiliated with specific faculties, these organizations could be set up more easily, and continued on a regular basis. But again, the effectiveness of this new system will really lie with the student body's willingness to organize in order to ensure that it's voice is being heard at every level of university decision making.

Arrogance of Osgoodites

It's a dream of many Osgoode students. One of the sky there appears an unidentified flying object, and suddenly Osgoode school is zapped back downtown to its original location, back where many Osgoode students feel it belongs.

Just two weeks ago, Osgoode's Student Council, Legal and Lit passed resolutions, echoing these very sentiments. The motion stated that Council must "preserve its status as an autonomous and independent student government." The motion was passed in response to the new CYSF constitution and York President Harry Arthur's latest discussion paper which includes Osgoode in one of York's central student governments (either the CYSF or the GSA—Graduate Students Association, depending on which one they want to join).

It's ironic that in 1968 the decision was made by Osgoode to join York, specifically because the law school's administration felt that it was important for students to be involved in a university environment. Apparently though, students in Osgoode feel compelled to make it known that they are in no way affiliated with York University. This is the kind of battle which Legal and Lit Dave Thomas is presently waging with other Council members. He sees the arrogance displayed by many Osgoode students, and thinks it's about time they accept the fact that they are here to stay.

He also realizes that whether Council likes it or not, the system of student government will drastically change next year, collapsing the trust fund now administered by CYSF and Legal and Lit. It's amazing to think that Council members honestly believe having an Osgoode representative on central student government could potentially result in the loss of the law school's distinctiveness. They can have all the distinctiveness they want, and we'll just keep all the money from the trust fund, and spend it as we see fit.



LETTERS

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Sex therapist misguided

Dear Editor,
I enjoyed reading your article, "Contraception, relationships, and masturbation." I have a slight disagreement, however, with your guest, Sue Johanson of Q107.

Johanson said, "Dr. Ruth doesn't give any information at all, if you really listen to her she says zip. Her show is pretty well useless."

I find it difficult to understand (maybe it has something to do with ratings) why Johanson would criticize Dr. Ruth for telling people to go see a sex therapist, or to go talk with their family doctor about their problems.

What Johanson must realize is that it is extremely dangerous to give personal advice, especially when it is to someone you don't even know. I feel that it is impossible to cure a person's problem over a one-minute phone conversation.

Although Johanson is well qualified, and I'm sure that she has a genuine concern for her callers, I feel that no one has all the answers when it comes to dealing with people who are suffering from emotional or psychological problems. Therefore, I feel Dr. Ruth is wise by telling people to seek ongoing treatment for their problems, with people who can better monitor their progress.

—Mario Pietrangelo
P.S. According to Oxford dictionary promiscuous is defined as: having sexual relations with many people.

Reader's letter strikes home

Dear Editor,
I wish to commend Rita MacMillan on her article: "Public unaware of learning disabled" (*Excalibur*,

March 3, 1988). Her candidness echoed voiceless feelings I have sensed, hidden, and locked-up for numerous years.

The aspect of low self-esteem, socialization difficulties, the blindness in recognizing achievements, and, most importantly, the forfeiting of my own sense of self, struck home harder than the impact of a moving subway train on a human body.

Thank you, Rita. The catharsis was genuinely appreciated.

With sincere empathy,
Paul O.

Much ado about Itwaru

To the Editor,
What is all this hype about Prof. Arnold Itwaru? If I may be so blunt to say; It's a total crock of shit!! Big deal, so another professor doesn't receive tenure. Like it doesn't occur every other day anyways?

I seem to recall there being more than one minority group at this school. Is being Black, Jewish, Greek or Italian not being a minority and if so, why is that rallies are not held when a member of one of these minorities doesn't receive tenure?

They say (they being our illustrious, well-educated students) that Prof. Itwaru wasn't re-hired because of racism. BULLSHIT!!

Upon conversing with other faculty members on this issue, they said a professor doesn't receive tenure if; a) he or she is incompetent or b) the expression of his or her views may be harmful and/or offensive to others. It is my understanding that Prof. Itwaru was not re-hired due to his beliefs.

I recently had the opportunity to hear Mr. Itwaru speak at a forum and was shocked to hear the kinds of things coming out of this "well-educated" man's mouth. I realize

that my interpretation may be incorrect but it was my understanding that Mr. Itwaru was anti-Israel thus, pro PLO.

Subsequently, at this rally which I was fortunate enough to briefly be part of in honour of Itwaru, I noticed that the majority of people in attendance were supporters in some way of the PLO (this I knew because they were also in attendance at this forum) and moreso, some of the literature floating around comparing Israel to the Apartheid government of South Africa didn't help Itwaru's case much either.

I believe the students that were present at this so-called rally know of Itwaru's views because if they didn't, then why would they be there supporting him? It only makes sense!

At this point, nobody knows the real reason(s) why Itwaru is not being re-hired. If it is due to his pro PLO beliefs (and myself and many others feel that it is), then it is in my opinion that himself and all others that advocate terrorism (and don't tell me in future letters of rebuttle that the Israelis do because that's also a crock) should be banned from not just the educational system but society for good!!!!

Jay Benjamin

Excal wins arrogance award

Your editorial of March 3, 1988 could go down in history as possibly the most absurd statement ever printed by this newspaper. It demonstrates that the press is not concerned with issues but personalities. Oversimplification distorts reality and makes it impossible to present the facts. Your own arrogance has gotten the better of you!

Mr. Peterson has said constantly that the government must earn the trust of the people constantly. The

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EXCALIBUR

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 (... and Liz Flagal as Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

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