

Boot Bata off York's board demands CCSA protest group

By DAVID BYRNES

A representative from Bata International, a branch of the Toronto-based Bata Shoe Corporation, was confronted last Thursday by a group of about 30 students protesting the company's business practices in South Africa.

"Boot Bata," they chanted.

The speaker, Bata International counsel Tom Drucker, who had been invited by the Osgoode International Law Society to speak about his career, was questioned by the protesters about Bata's alleged exploitation of black workers in South Africa.

The demonstration was largely organized by law student Lyal Sunga.

Sunga refuted a rumor that Drucker was escorted to his car by the protestors. "I think he decided to leave," Sunga said. "He had no real choice but to leave if he wanted to save face."

Asked to comment on the incident, Drucker would only say "the less said about that the better."

Sunga said that he is disappointed with the attitude of law students towards the exploita-

tion of South African blacks by multinational corporations.

"I am sad to say that for the most part, law students at Osgoode seem terribly ignorant and apathetic about issues involving basic human rights and freedoms," Sunga said.

"That apartheid is a racist regime, condemned by the United Nations as a crime against humanity and as genocide was the matter to which the political statement of student protest was directed," Sunga said.

Sonia Bata, a director of the Bata Shoe Corporation, is also one of York's Board of Governors. A group called Canadians Concerned about South Africa (CCSA) is presently soliciting student signatures to support Bata's removal from the Board.

A recent *Globe & Mail* article strongly criticized the Bata Shoe Corporation for refusing its workers a union and paying them less than standardized poverty levels. The article said that at Bata's KwaZulu plant workers are only paid the equivalent of \$140 per month Canadian currency.

Development council launched

By LAURA LUSH

A unanimous consensus from York's constituencies has given the go ahead to form an Advisory Council that will consult in the possible leasing and development of York's land.

President Harry Arthurs called a meeting with York's constituencies on April 1 to discuss the findings of the Lapp Report. Under the direction of the president, Board member Philip Lapp conducted a study on the possibility of furthering York's physical development.

Arthurs called the meeting after looking at Lapp's findings and recommendations at a March 18 Board of Governors meeting. The report, described by CYSF Speaker Marshall Golden as one of the "most comprehensive, precise, expedient reports" he has seen, received no opposition from the 40 representatives of York's constituencies.

The report, Physical Planning Requirements at York University, recommends that a Development Corporation comprised of faculty, administration, students and BOG representatives be set up to implement the marketing plans of the development. The consensus for an Advisory Council made up of varying York representatives means that the council can go before the Board of Governors on April 15 to ask for approval to form the York Development Corporation.

"It's a real new era for York," Golden said, referring to the potential growth of York's 600 acres of land. Golden praised Arthurs' efforts, saying that the entire York community has benefited by the president's initiative. "The whole initiative is happening now, and happening fast," he added. "Buildings could be built as early as next year."

The priorities of the report include infilling the campus core, the area enclosed in the perimeter road that circles the university, with new buildings. The original York Master Plan of 1963 fell short of its attempt to infill this area with numerous buildings when funding was cut by the provincial government in 1972.

The report reads, "All land-use development should serve University purposes," meaning that new buildings would be constructed, keeping in mind that they could be changed over to serve another purpose at another time. The university would also have a reversionary right

over the buildings, being able to take them back for their own purposes at the end of a lease. The buildings would be self-sufficient and self-financed, with the revenues from their leases returning to the university.

The report also stipulates, "Lands and facilities should be made available on terms that contemplate possible reacquisition by the University to serve its future development." Possible development could include a shopping mall, a teleport, a satellite receiving center, a hotel/motel complex, co-op housing, and the construction of government agency buildings. The estimated value of York's land is between \$150,000 and \$450,000 an acre, Golden said.

While recognizing the same principles of the Master Plan which attempted to build a tightly knit university complex, a Campus Concept Plan would provide a more flexible format, Golden said. Because of the changing nature of the development project, which will seek non-university investors, the Concept Plan could accommodate a better suited marketing plan, he added.

According to a March 21 *Excalibur* article, the first task of the Development Corporation "would be to conduct an international competition, designed to give York worldwide publicity." Although Golden said the Corporation would hope to secure a majority of Canadian investors, the doors are open to international investors.

A York University Mission Statement already being prepared by Vice-President Bill Found, will also remain a main priority with the development, as it will voice the academic concerns during the project.

Golden said the land development would be a continuing process aimed at a leading world renowned, self-financing center by the year 2000. "This is a unique initiative," he said. "No other university has something like this in the world." Golden emphasized the potential for York to become the best university on the continent with the improved services that would accompany land development, adding to a greater social and intellectual life on campus. "It's a dream," he said, "but we need to learn it's a practical dream."

Golden also said development would mean that "no longer will York be considered a barren campus—people will be fighting to get in."



A FEARLESS SYMMETRY: Good editors usually don't grow on trees—they sprout out from behind them, as *Excalibur's* Elliott Shiff and Dave Byrnes prove. Hody and outgoing editor Graham Thompson look on.

New *Excal* editors sworn in

By EDO VAN BUNKUM

Excalibur, York University's favorite, and only, weekly campus newspaper, has a new Editor-in-Chief.

There were a few tense moments in this year's *Excalibur* editorial elections, with the voting going to a second ballot before Elliott Shiff, one of this year's three News Section sub-editors, triumphed over three other candidates for the position.

Shiff was obviously elated by his victory, saying, "Damn, I never thought I'd win. Damn it. Are you sure you counted those ballots right?"

As the new Editor of *Excalibur*, Shiff's first task was to find a Managing Editor. After a week's deliberation, he chose 305-

pound ex-wrestler David Byrnes. Byrnes, who also ran for the position of Editor-in-Chief, said he was happy to be employed for a change.

When this year's Editor-in-Chief Graham Thompson was asked to comment on Shiff's election, he replied, "I don't know. I'll have to think about it."

Current Managing Editor Gary Symons was just as baffled when asked to comment. "Shiff," he said. "That's the guy who looks like he belongs on a pack of Zig-Zag papers, right? I don't know. I'll have to think about it."

Shiff and Byrnes will shoulder their editorial burdens for the next issue of *Excalibur*, to be published May 28, and will continue as editors until spring of 1986.

Plight of Soviet Jews the issue in York demonstrators' Ottawa trek

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

Over 100 York students went to Ottawa last week to remind federal politicians of the plight of Soviet Jews on the eve of External Affairs Minister Joe Clark's visit to the Soviet Union.

York students comprised the majority of the March 26 delegation, which consisted of 200 students from universities across the country. The demonstration was organized by the Jewish Students Federation and Network, the North American Jewish Student organization.

York student Lenny Baranek, Program Coordinator of the event, said the purpose of the demonstration was "to show students' concern for the lack of academic freedom for Soviet Jews. Although teaching Hebrew is not illegal by Soviet law, the Hebrew teachers are constantly harassed while some have been arrested and charged with offences ranging from possession of illegal weapons to trumped up drug charges."

The delegation to Ottawa met with 50 Members of Parliament plus Opposition Leader John Turner's Chief of Staff and officials in the Foreign Minister's office.

"Everyone we met with was sympathetic to the issue and some were willing to pursue it further," Baranek said. "Many promised to send letters to Mr. Clark, and a few expressed

willingness to adopt a refusenik," he said. A refusenik is someone who has applied for a visa to emigrate but has been refused, usually leading to the loss of their jobs.

David Kilgour, Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament from Edmonton-Strathcona, raised the issue in Parliament that day during question period, and ten students from the delegation who were sitting in the gallery were acknowledged by the Speaker of the House.

While the Parliament was in session other students staged a related demonstration in front of the Soviet Embassy.

Baranek indicated that the program was modelled after one initiated at Brandeis University that takes place annually in Washington. Baranek said the demonstration was very successful. "It laid the foundation for future events with York University comprising the main element of students," he said.

Baranek emphasized that the plight of the Soviet Jews "is an issue that transcends Jewish rights. It is an issue of human rights and the fact that the Soviets do not give them academic freedom is reason enough for people all over the world who are concerned with human rights to be concerned with the issue," he said.



CHARITY BEGINS AT YORK: Poster from Dollar Day campaign to raise funds for relief effort in northern Ethiopian provinces.