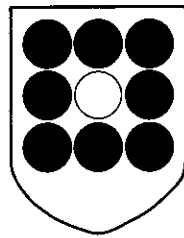


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March 5, 2010

Patrick Monahan
Vice-President Academic & Provost, York University
Fax: (416) 736-5876
Email: provost@yorku.ca

Dear Vice-President Monahan:

I am writing on behalf of the CCLA regarding the recent cancellation of the event planned by Christians United for Israel (“CUFI”). According to recent media reports and your clarification in the National Post, we understand that the security assessment indicated that the event required security over and above a campus police presence. CUFI was unable or unwilling to pay for the extra security, and the event was subsequently cancelled.

CCLA’s concern stems from the implications of York’s policy that the cost of Toronto Police Services be borne by a student group that invites speakers or holds events. Too often, the effect of such a policy will be to prevent the attendance of controversial speakers who express a minority opinion. This potential consequence, silencing one group’s voice based on the feared reaction from those who disagree, would be an unjustifiable infringement of the group’s freedom of expression, and also the wider campus community’s right to hear.

In the case at hand, which took place in the context of Israel Apartheid week, the discriminatory effects are potentially severe. The cancellation of CUFI’s event has prevented a response to the anti-apartheid discourse from being heard. Israeli Apartheid Week is highly controversial both on campus and in the wider community, making it all the more important that dissenting voices be afforded the opportunity to speak. CCLA has more than once defended the rights of anti-apartheid groups to hold events and not be censored in their expression. It is unfortunate that the other side of the debate cannot be heard because of the University’s policy that the students must shoulder additional security risks.

Minority views will always require more security than more dominant ones, particularly on controversial subjects. Especially in the context of an ongoing

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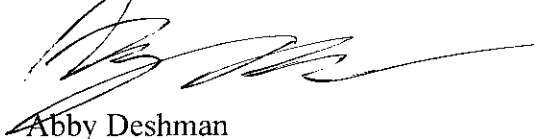
A. ALAN BOROVY



campus debate, a university has a duty to ensure that students are able to express their dissenting opinions freely.

CCLA therefore respectfully encourages that the policy of imposing the costs of policing on the student group be reviewed in this context.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abby Deshman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Abby Deshman
Project Director