

York Health Organization Alerts:

Enemy combatant posing as TBA Professor at York arrested by YSF
Global Pandemic: TBA Syndrome Breakout!

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An enemy combatant who had infiltrated York University's territory disguised as a TBA professor was arrested early this morning at her downtown co-op's basement apartment from where she had conducted many online courses and advised many students. "The alien had been teaching for 10 years in many departments at York, spreading what we now know to be a very dangerous biochemical agent," stated York security officials. "For many years we've had reports from students complaining from symptoms associated with critical thinking and creative production, but it was only recently that we could link the virus to the suspect's tenuous-track teaching."

Citing the security certificate bill, York Security Forces (YSF) refused to comment on the specifics of the case. But the Star's independent investigator uncovered a long history of offenses by the suspect. She was a proponent of employment equity at York and active in CUPE 3903's 2000-01 strike. Along with a few other general radicals, she organized the protest against the famous leader of Campus Watch, Daniel Pipes's visit to York in 2003. Between 2003 and 2007 she was repeatedly seen in her lecture, studio and online classes spreading the HAI virus (Human Active Intelligence) amongst unsuspecting students. "Questions about active engagement, power relations, community participation, democratic process and public space circulated freely in her classes and nobody took notice," a baffled YSF Officer stated privately. "She was odd and spooky," said a former student, "and her classes were unusual. She pushed us to cross boundaries and question the status quo and take our work really 'out there' in public performances and interventions. We had to work hard and think for ourselves. And she dressed totally bizarrely and unfashionably for a TBA."

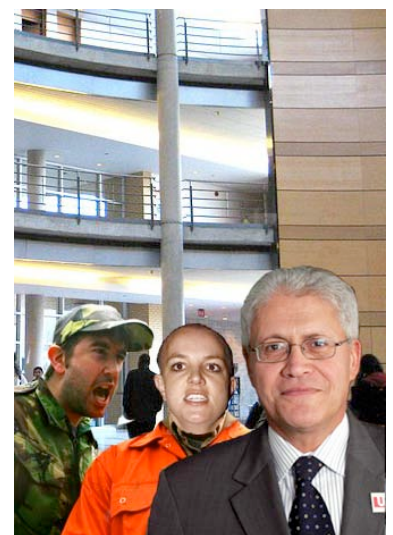
The authorities in the department where the suspect had taught for the last 4 years declined a formal interview, but our investigation revealed that these authorities knew about her active involvement in the international extra-disciplinary artists' ring and her already exposed connections to various artist and activist projects. An anonymous caller, introducing herself as "a concerned citizen" who claimed, "I am really concerned that York will soon be invaded by enemy TBAs," explained that the suspect's TBA status in the department came after support staff "erroneously" sent back her annual job application in its unopened original envelope. "We normally shred these applications," the caller said, "But our support staff are overworked and mistakes that compromise our safety happen all the time." This error led the department to make a hasty appointment in order to circumvent the suspect's grievance.

Responding to why YSF had done so little to contain the suspect's dangerous activities, an official commented, "Our hands are tied. We cannot do our jobs properly when our officers earn only \$100-200K. Look at the salaries of university officials south of the border. The public can't realistically expect us to protect their sons and daughters when we have so little incentive to work harder. If we want to deal with the security threat posed by TBAs, we have to start investing more seriously in our managerial class. Teaching labour is a cheap, ever-green pool. We've already recruited more graduate students, knowing they'll soon be the younger and more eager labourers to replace the current tenuous-track pool once we've gotten all the juice out of them. But this plan is seriously in jeopardy! Look at the current strike to see how grad students are already infected with the HAI virus. We must triple our investment in hiring more PRBS's (Public Relations Bullshitters) and NMA's (Narrow-Minded Administrators) if we truly want to win this battle."

The YSF authorities caught up with the suspect when she finally showed up on the university's conversion radar. The anonymous caller claimed that "we can't have so many people festering in the conversion pool. Long wait times and a hiring process that is harder and more selective than tenure-track hiring, causes dangerous levels of frustration, so we have to turn them out before they get to conversion. Naturally, we only want to convert the tame ones who will bring the most money to our departments." International security experts call this "cultural propagation through tamable tenure selection," a process that has proven very successful in higher education nurseries in the US and Europe.



YSF officers, B. Miller and A. Bilyk, well known for sniffing radical TBAs who hide in clever disguises, smile as they take the suspect for interrogation to Guantanamo York.



The suspect, stripped of her disguise, seen between a satisfied President Shoukri in a rare public appearance, and an angry YorkNotHostage member.

In response to our question “why didn’t you do anything earlier to keep the suspect from setting up a sleeping cell in the middle of a high-traffic department and recruiting so many unwitting students as agents spreading the highly contagious HAI virus,” YSF officials commented, “We have installed over 300 surveillance cameras on the campus in all the public places. We are doing our best to make our university a safer place. But we can’t win them all.”

Global Pandemic: TBA Syndrome Breakout!

Canadian health officials confirmed yesterday that the mysterious disease, which suddenly erupted on York University Campus last November 6, affecting over 3000, is, indeed, the same that has been plaguing Southern Ontario since last spring. The more recent cases have now been directly linked to the 1000 cases reported between September and early October in the University of Windsor area¹ and the 365 cases recorded around Wilfrid Laurier earlier in March.² False alarms had also been reported in Hamilton in June,³ and in Guelph⁴ this past week of December. A possible similar outbreak is likely to spread also in the central Toronto area.

Microbiologists at Mount Sinai hospital have been studying the *Precarius-Educator-Viridiae* (PEV) virus causing this disease, tentatively called TBA Syndrome (To-Be-Announced-Professor-Syndrome), recognizing some astounding similarities with a condition that has recently registered some mild cases in the UK⁵ and a full blown epidemic in Southern Europe.⁶ Travels to academic conferences may have caused the virus to spread. Different work conditions may have caused it to mutate into the current North American strain.

In its current Ontario form, the disease mainly affects Contract and Disposable Faculty, Contract Academic Staff, and faculty subjected to various forms of precarious or limited contracts. However, the latest cases seem to manifest a new, more resilient strain that spreads also among teaching assistants and graduate assistants.

Symptoms include acquired sensitivity to unfair job conditions and trouble digesting lack of job security. Typically, individuals affected by the TBA Syndrome show a pronounced tendency to spread the HAI (Human Active Intelligence) – another viral mutation of PEV – by fostering the development of critical skills among unaware students and by encouraging them to question the education system.

If not treated and eradicated promptly, this condition worsens into an increasing susceptibility to reject poor contract offers by the employer and escalates into active work-withdrawal symptoms accompanied by vocal and creative forms of protest and public education. Aggressive attempts by the university administration to repress the symptoms with palliative or misleading promises have caused the virus to spread further, and have inevitably diminished the chances to find a quick and appropriate vaccine.

“There is no doubt that more and more people are going to be affected by this outbreak in the near future. This is a disease where people become progressively more aware and politically engaged in a very short period of time,” Health officials warned. If a vaccine is not found quickly, chances are the virus might travel to other

provinces across Canada and even south of the border. The World Health Organization is considering issuing a Health warning and has restored the city of Toronto to its list of TBA Syndrome infected areas. Officials recommend avoiding all kinds of exposure to TBA affected individuals. Talking to them is particularly dangerous, your risks of being infected increase exponentially as you could actually be persuaded by their arguments.



1. Wilfrid Laurier strike www.youtube.com/watch?v=srRKghbAMEA
2. Windsor strike www.truveo.com/Univ-of-Windsor-Strike-Rally/id/2229877425
3. McMaster CUPE3906 reaches tentative agreement cupe.ca/education/a48529c93cbde9
4. Guelph strike averted <http://www.cupe3913.on.ca/>
5. U of T TAs vote “Yes” to strike mandate www.cupe3902.org/cupe-3902-strike-vote-media-conference/
6. “The Crisis of the University?” Sessions at Goldsmith College and Queen Mary University in London UK www.edu-factory.org/images/stories/university-london.jpg
7. Uniriot www.edu-factory.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=86&Itemid=41

York Is Us endeavours to redefine York University’s identity for the university community and the outside world.

We are calling for your modest submissions for “York’s 50th: A Rumpus.” Send us your small creative reflections that ransack the last 50 years at York. Submissions should not be larger than a hairless Chihuahua and be digitally transportable. Submissions might be a personalized visual timeline, testimonies, critical fictions, photographs, memorabilia or graphic texts that showcase the university’s great history and your part in it, labour relations throughout the decades, important moments and more. Submissions will be selectively showcased in upcoming XFiles.

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YORKISUS@GMAIL.COM