

Letters to the Editor

McLaughlin has no social commissioner

In the article concerning the Crowbar concert (Excalibur, Sept. 23, 1971) it was stated that Grant Corbett is the social commissioner of McLaughlin Social Affairs Committee. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that our council has no social commissioner, but rather a Social Affairs Committee consisting of three participating council members.

A Mac student

A reply from Robin Mathews

Dear Sir:

May I answer the letter written by Vernon W. Yorgason, attacking me in the Sept. 23 Excalibur.

In the first place no one I have ever been connected with, nor myself, has every said that we should only have Canadians in the universities. Do we have to go over that old corny ground for the ignorant, like Mr. Yorgason?

Moreover, I didn't say that Jean Cottam was refused a job at a U.S. University. I said she was refused a job in the U.S. for which she was qualified because of a quite prevalent U.S.-citizens only policy there. Moreover the U.S. presently has very stringent immigration policy that keeps Canadians out except for two year visiting terms. That is a fact that may be checked by anyone interested enough to do so.

Yorgason's palaver about what the U.S. does with MAs is irrelevant since Cottam has a Phd. Also his attacks upon me as claiming expertise in administration and Russian history and so on are good fun, but meaningless. I can read. I can report that a U.S. MA was hired before a Canadian Phd from that lightweight college, the University of Toronto.

As to the value of the "great U.S. Schools", Yorgason tells all himself when he refers to "the snob appeal." Moreover, when will colonials like Yorgason get through their minds that a Harvard degree may not be worth very much — however much it is yelled about — if the person possessing it comes to teach in Canada wholly ignorant of the application of his work to Canadian life, the Canadian student, the needs of Canada and Canadian society. When Yorgason suggests that the U.S. imports "speedily overcome" their lack of knowledge about Canada, I can only say that students across Canada have told me that they don't. U.S. imports usually wallow in their continuing and complacent ignorance.

It is lovely to see a colonial Canadian suggesting that his training from Canadians has been as good as nothing. That is what he says in his last paragraph — that "too often" Canadians are as good as nothing. How long will Canadian students accept that kind of

cringing, neurotic, colonialism from their Canadian faculty? God help York.

Finally, Robin Mathews did not say that students should get Canadians or nothing. Poor Mr. Yorgason. I said that when Canadians have been discriminated against by aliens and cringing colonials like Vernon W. Yorgason, Canadian students should sweep out the newly hired people and the people who made the discrimination possible. Even if it means getting rid of people like York president David Slater and Atkinson dean Harry Crowe.

Robin Mathews

Editor viewed as a radical

After reading the articles that appeared in the Sept. 16 issue of Excalibur pertaining to the college councils and the college system, I was sorely disappointed to see that Excalibur has again been burdened by pseudo-radical editor.

All you have managed to do is take an issue that has been a part of York since its formation and rehash all the various arguments and complaints that have been heard over and over again.

I must congratulate you though for it was an extremely safe topic to pick for someone wishing to be a "campus radical."

You criticize the college system and advocate the abolition of the college councils, yet you give only vague alternatives for any type of administration and no solutions to any of the problems.

You state that there should be a strong central council to increase student participation in university affairs and to administer funds. How would this be done, what legislation would have to be passed to ensure this. If student participation is ineffectual now with a number of individual councils responsible only to 1,200 or 1,300 students and to CYSF, what would it be like with only one council responsible to 23,000 students? Ask any U.o.F.T. student how effective he feels in the administration of his university or money.

A number of people like you feel well qualified to criticize and tear down this system because it has faults and may not be working that well. It does have faults but the problems that plague York are minor in scope when compared to a majority of universities.

I agree with you that a reorganization of the CYSF constitution is necessary, though the effective amalgamation of all the colleges into a uniform mass of people, which is what you propose, would aggravate and increase the problems that York faces. Perhaps a system whereby CYSF could be formed of a number of delegates from each college council, Osgoode, MBA etc. with a chairman, secretarial staff and a finance commission, might be instituted. A system such as this would insure accurate communication bet-

ween CYSF and the college councils which in turn would insure a better organizational structure within the university. This is just one alternative to the present system and it has its flaws, but it is an alternative. If the college councils and the college system are abolished the students of this university will then be in an even worse position than you seem to think they are in now.

It is easy for you to sit back and say abolish the college councils and the colleges without thinking of the consequences. Think seriously about what you proposed and don't attack this system because it is the thing to do.

What York has no need of is another person willing to criticize and nothing else.

Jim Cameron

McLaughlin College student council

Divided response to Jewish holidays

I wish to express my thanks to various professors at York University who were certainly very understanding regarding my absence and that of most of the Jewish student population. Although the administration insisted upon having the faculty of arts opening day of sessions on our High Holiday of Rosh Hashannah, refusing to change the starting day, certainly this lack of consideration, foresight, and respect does not carry over to our educators. I found my professors quite willing to allow us to switch to different lab. sessions and lectures, where possible, being more than accommodating regarding saving hand outs for us and being willing to repeat information already covered. Many classes were cancelled entirely, as many will be on our holiest of days, Yom Kippur, Sept. 29, 1971. Despite the competitive nature of most students, wherein class notes are more precious than their subscription to Playboy, I wish to salute the non-Jewish population at York, because most were sympathetic, angry at this injustice, and willing to lend their notes to us.

Let me dispel the rumor that the administration did not know about our Jewish holidays, and of their exact dates. The Canadian Jewish Congress sent — the previous Sept. a calendar listing the days involved, and as well, sent a letter to Mr. Beider (registrar) in June 1971, re-explaining the same information. To whoever is responsible I wish the same case of anxiety, stress, frustration and anger. Don't walk down a dark alley with a first year student behind you.

Ellen Buchweitz

Student disgusted with registration

I am a first year student in the faculty of arts, Founders College. In writing this letter to you my purpose is twofold. First I should like to voice my sincere disgust in the registration procedures at Tait McKenzie Sept. 16, 1971. Secondly, and perhaps most

important, to suggest a workable alternative to it.

As an undergraduate member of this university I was sent information regarding registration procedures. The following excerpts is what I was led to believe would be the method of registration.

"When you come to register you will be greeted by senior students of your college, probably have your photograph taken, perhaps be offered refreshments, and have an opportunity to talk to representatives of various campus clubs and student organizations. This will take place in the upper gym, and from there you will go downstairs to the large gym to register in your courses."

In the data I received no mention was made whatsoever that it would be necessary to form a line in numerical order outside the complex. It also failed to inform me that the people in charge outside would be first year students like myself who were in no way qualified or indeed authorized to carry out such a function.

It would seem that the night before registration a few nervous young pups wandered over to Tait some 12-14 hours in advance of registration. As these doe-heads sat on the grass that evening a plan was devised by which the established registration procedure would be restructured.

Their plan was feebly simple. What these demagogues did in effect was to take the outlined registration procedure, which had proven to be effective in the past, and moved it into the gutter outside.

Upon arriving at Tait in the morning (well in advance to registration) the unsuspecting undergraduate met with a most disturbing situation. Several bureaucratic females sat by a motley sign, indicating my college, taking names and distributing number cards apparently for official purposes. The numbers were to be used in forming a line outside Tait.

The disadvantages of their procedure are obvious. Those students who organized (I use the word loosely) the action quite naturally had the lowest numbers as did most of their friends. How unfortunate for a student who did not have these organizers for friends or who used official guidelines rather than residence gossip concerning a change in procedure.

In past years I have been under the impression students arrived a few hours before registration without any significant incident. In other words the methods of the faculty of this university were carried out effectively and efficiently.

The pious minority who interfered with the established system seemed to feel that as first year frosh they knew more about procedures than did the upper echelons of this university. They literally upset registration, which in fact is an offence and an insult to the faculty and administrators of York University.

In my opinion preregistration for first year students is the only viable solution to the problem. Only by this method can all outside forms of interference be eliminated, assuring each student a fair and equal deal.

Ted Dash

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