

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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Not bad at this point, winds, essays coming

It's been nice so far hasn't it? Lots of parties, dances and only a couple of classes. The weather's been good too. York almost looks homey this time of year.

But, first year students, we feel it's only fair to warn you, December is not a great month here. Essays and exams come from nowhere to slap you in the face like a wet towel. And when you hurry to classes you will be running up against the icy blasts of the infamous York Winds, and we don't mean the chamber quartet.

But you'll find out soon enough. It promises to be an interesting year. There's the National Day of Protest, National Student Day and the final report from the university's Commission on Goals and Objectives to come. Eating in Central Square won't be the torture it has in the past though it is still expensive. At this point no one has skipped more than three classes, so who needs to worry?

We hope you all have a good year, we intend to.

Edson limits debate, council a democracy?

While wishing to let the new student council, controlled by Barry Edson and his team, start the year with a clean slate their activities during the summer demand comment.

As CYSF president Edson himself put it at times "meetings did become somewhat like a zoo". This is partially due to what seemed like a refusal on his part to tolerate views in opposition to his own. Motions of closure and limitations on debate at times seemed to be the rule of Edson's summer council. His almost hysterical refusal to listen to opposing views was counter-productive. At one point Edson had a motion passed supporting increased tuition fees for foreign students. The motion was passed without any debate. As a result of this stubbornness

Edson was forced to reverse the motion at the next meeting, with apologies.

Edson behaved in a similar fashion when the controversial clubs motion was discussed. This motion now gives a dangerous amount of power to the student council. Among other things, the motion allows council to withdraw privileges from clubs if three-quarters of CYSF feels it has behaved in a manner embarrassing to the council. This gives council the potential for censorship. Edson says the clubs resolution will not be abused. We will have to wait and see.

If the council has any hope of functioning effectively, and if Edson wants to maintain his credibility in future every effort will have to be made to encourage rather than inhibit democratic discussion.



Foreign students victimized, government officials autocratic

While universities were empty this summer the Ontario government announced plans to increase tuition fees for foreign students beginning in January. Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott rationalized the move citing "mounting public concern over the extent of taxpayers' support for foreign students."

Yet according to figures from the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) the move will save the ministry only. 6 per cent of its budget.

For this nominal saving the Ontario government is prepared to inflict hardships on foreign students. This heartless move cannot be justified.

Certainly Canada has taken enough out of the Third World not to begrudge educating some of its young people.

By reducing the number of foreign students, which the prohibitively high new fees will certainly do, the government is making the university more of an ivory tower than it already is. Universities will become the sanctuary of WASP Canadian students.

And why did the government choose to single out only foreign students for the fee hike? Do students from other Canadian provinces have any greater claim to Ontario tax money than those from outside Canada? The government has chosen to rely on anti-

foreign, perhaps even racist sentiments to justify the fee increases.

To avoid organized opposition to the fee change the government acted in the summer. By doing so they failed to properly discuss the move with the university community. As a result the York registrar's office is not even clear as to how the increase should be applied. They don't know whether or not undergraduate foreign students entering graduate programs must pay the higher rate.

The precedent the government has set in this abrupt decision, both in its autocracy and its discriminatory nature, is dangerous and frightening.

Open letter

The 1975-76 Council of York Student Federation, to expedite matters concerning the development and financing of departmental student assemblies or course unions, set up an independent, autonomous governing body known as the Course Union Administrative Commission.

The functions and purposes of the Course Union Administrative Commission are to allocate funding for administrative costs activities,

as well as, academic and social projects from the trust fund to the recognised CYSF course unions based solely on the course union budgetary request. Course union budgetary requests must be submitted to the CUAC, care of CYSF, no later than November 15th. The Course Union Administrative Commission is also responsible for setting aside adequate funds to provide for the implementation of course

evaluations at the end of the year.

Please make any enquiries about getting CYSF recognition for your course union or how to make up a budgetary request to myself or the CUAC secretary care of CYSF.

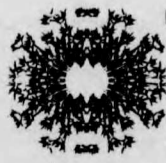
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