

## Excuse us while we bitch

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Last week 500 students rallied at Laurentian University demanding a pub... (you know, a place where you drink, on campus)... recently, a national toothpaste magazine called York "suburban and sober"... what are we going to do about it?

Why-for how-come Glendon the mini-u managed to raise \$570 for the slave auction from their measly 700 students when York, the maxi-campus, could only scrape just over 500 clams from 3000 "upper middle class suburbanites"? Last of the big-time spenders?

Excalibur knuckle-rap of the week: to "Alfalfa" Lubek and Spanky Rapoport and his gang for their continuing childish council-debate capers. They're so busy resigning, revolting (that's for sure) and generally raising shit, we wonder when they're going to clean up their act and start running their organizations responsibly. Must they try to make front page news every week?

Speaking of wallowing, is Physical Plant aware that several students are already missing, and the entire campus is about to disappear in the sea of mud and water that makes us wish for Noah's Ark, or at least some boardwalks, to get to class.

Is Dr. Taylor of the Phys Ed department so busy running he hasn't had time to visit the Phys Ed building? It took far too long to get enough towels for the men's locker room, it has taken far too long to improve the hours of open swimming at the pool. And how come most of the equipment necessary to play the recreation at games the university emphasizes are not available for loan or sale to interested players?

We suspect Bell Telephone and the Administration are the originators of that expression "don't phone us, we'll phone you." Here in Excalibur, and in a lot of the other annually relocated student organizations, telephones are a necessity, and an impossibility. We've been waiting since early September for the peal of bells, and all we get are sad stories from the people in charge about inadequate facilities and improvements forthcoming. It's too bad there isn't any competition with Bell allowed, so we could see what telephone service should really be like.

And frosh--only fifty-one and a half days 'til Christmas.

## letters to us

### GIVE ACSA THE AXE

Dear Sir:

President Murray Ross's Advisory Committee on Student Affairs, known as ACSA, was misconceived. And despite some of the best administrative first-aid, it cannot survive its fatal flaw.

Two of ACSA's 12 student members quit last week. They were, Murray Coolican, Glendon student council vice-president, and Glen S. Williams, Glendon's communications commissioner. They resigned because ACSA decided to meet in camera; in se-

cret, that is.

I would like to critically examine ACSA and suggest an alternative.

To begin at the beginning, President Ross wanted a method of consultation with the students. This might keep him aware of student concerns and be a sounding board for administrative ideas on student affairs. In other words, it would be a two-way street.

An admirable goal indeed. However, I take it that the existing methods of consult-

'who's in charge of morality around here? ...but dave, j.j. says...' 'shut up anita or i'll whip you again'...more, you sadist...ross thrusts and rich parties...pizza with peccaroni...for fred...and fran, who came back...we miss you phyl...happy happy to terry and dale...thanks to paul, who skipped dinner, calire, mike, linda, kandy, clark, howard, don, liebeck, sportsies...see you at the excalibash friday.

## Excalibur

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the informal exchange of different and differing points of view.

John Adams  
(Vanier II)

### RUSSELL RANTS

Dear Sir:

I read with dismay your pouting, venomous editorial diatribe against the Advisory Committee on Students Affairs, for their having voted 9-7 to exclude representatives of the press from their meetings. And here, of course, there is no basic distinction between the student press and any other press--what appears in Excalibur today could appear in the Globe and Mail tomorrow (though, given the difference in standards, the likelihood is miniscule, to be sure).

If this is the standard of responsible reporting which the Committee can expect, it seems fortunate that they saved themselves just in time from such childish immaturity. Many students must surely wonder why it is that they have to subsidize Excalibur whether they like it or not.

Personally, had I been on the committee, I too would have opposed your presence. Privileged items of information occur in this committee, such as information on examination and petitions, psychological reports and personal details about students and, if I were the subject of one of these reports, I would be seriously disturbed at the prospect of its gratuitous distribution in print.

Why don't you grow up?

Dennis C. Russell

Editor's note: Dennis Russell is Chairman of the Mathematics Department at York.

### THINK!

Dear Sir:

The Excalibur editorial on ACSA revealed a regrettably narrow attitude. Were you blind to the real "gut" issue in the decision to close ACSA meetings because of your press concerns?

Let us examine the issue from a university community perspective removing the Excalibur blinders.

Don't forget, Excalibur, that ACSA members do not draw up the agenda for the meetings. In fact, ACSA members do not even have the right to call meetings because ACSA is an advisory committee to the President.

Don't forget, Excalibur, that ACSA is only an effective voice of the university community to the extent that President Ross values its advice.

Of course all this is lamentable! But should we fight for "democratic ideals" in ACSA and risk ACSA becoming an impotent showcase committee, or exercise strong student influence on substantial issues in a closed ACSA and beef up our cry for more channels of participation on a more fruitful approach, including an examination of the student role in the community by ACSA.

The ACSA issue, Excalibur, was whether to sacrifice the consideration of pressing problems in defense of an important procedural principle.

I disagree with the committee's decision. But to condemn the students who make a difficult choice and remain on ACSA is wrongheaded and to express only contempt for the faculty who voted to close ACSA is petty. Before you editorialize, think, Excalibur, think!!

Stan Bunston (W III)

ation (i.e. through the various student councils) were not appropriate for the informal consultation the President desired. I concur with this judgement. Surely there is a place for informal student-faculty-administration consultation without recourse to student councils. Councils too often tend to be a place for "decision-making", for "standing-up-and-being-counted," for talking, not thinking, or even listening.

I think it clear that if the President wants formal consultation, he should go to the student governments concerned. The question remains, "What of informal opinion-sampling, advice-gathering, off-the-record consultations? How is it to be done?"

One answer was ACSA.

That's right "was". ACSA has ceased to be useful. The Coolican Williams resignations arose from a conflict of principle. They believe in an open university. They cannot accept that a formal, structured committee advising the President on student activities should meet in private (secret) sessions.

How are the opinions of students holding such beliefs to be heard by ACSA? If unheard, ACSA is ignorant and unrepresentative.

This is but a symptom of the real malaise.

ACSA decided to close its meetings. It has an agenda. It has a chairman. It has decided not to decide, only to recommend. It keeps a record of its proceedings and recommendations.

I quarrel with none of this. I quarrel with the very fact of ACSA.

My central point is this: given the desirability of an informal opinion-sampling, advice-gathering consultation, I maintain that such consultation is impossible within a structure, any structure.

ACSA is structured. It was conceived as a structure. A structure cannot be informal. It is for getting things done. It produces built-in pressures for an agenda, a chairman, records of its proceedings and decisions. It forces its members to take positions.

To sum up, some informal consultation is desirable. ACSA was established to provide it. ACSA is structured and, therefore, formal. It cannot perform its intended function. That is its fatal flaw.

The alternative I propose is not radical. It's not even new. It already exists and functions at Glendon.

The President should meet over coffee, lunch or dinner with student council presidents and chairmen, residence council presidents, and the editors of Excalibur. Faculty might also participate.

They could meet at the President's invitation. There would be no agenda, no chairman, no minutes and no decisions. All concerned would benefit from