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BOG isn't really dictatorial

For those who were astounded last week by the news that your Board of Governors was planning a dictatorship for York, please ignore it. The editors made a mistake. They read my second paragraph which reads, "One governor suggested President Macdonald govern York without consulting either Senate of BOG, which, to my mind, amounts

to recommending a benevolent dictatorship" and came up with a gross distortion for a headline, to wit, "Board recommends a 'benevolent dictatorship'".

While there are fundamental problems with the governing structure of York, I have never claimed that it was dictatorial, nor do I believe that the Board as a whole, or Macdonald individually, wishes to install dictatorial decision-making. The article is clear that only one governor suggested (quite different from moving a motion) that Macdonald act dictatorially. I utilized it as a shocking indication of the archaic, anti-democratic attitudes which exist within the BOG.

A much more serious suggestion followed, that "it had been a mistake to allow discussion of the President's Commission Report". The seriousness stems from the seeming agreement of several governors that discussion should be discouraged, if not prevented. It seems they did not want a return engagement of a President's report being shot down in flames.

I feel, however, that the problem is lack of involvement and discussion by the community. The BOG had held secret meetings from

York's inception, becoming public only after my election in the spring. The meetings are now open, but with no public announcement, and continue to be held in the dark forbidding senate chambers at Glendon campus. With these barriers in people's way it is not remarkable that no spectators have shown up. The BOG must force itself out into the community if it wishes, "to foster an attitude of communal interest in the development of York University among its members" (President's Commission report). One reason for apathy is the feeling of powerlessness to affect, change, or control the institutions, society, and world within which we live. As long as the BOG continues to be overwhelmingly non-university businessmen, with insignificant student representation, there is no reason for students to believe they have much control over their university environment.

One issue which should provoke a student response is the coming fiscal crunch with resultant decline in standards of education. This subject fits in with an oversight in the article. The quote, "we will have limited finances and have to make choices" is actually a paraphrase of the intent of the Presidents Report. The actual quote is, "realistic support in time and money cannot be given to all endeavors, the university needs to single out individuals and units who are making the most significant contributions and give them extra help...time and money must be found for greater support of these activities...but time can only be found within the system, by cutting in one place and adding in another."

Since time is bought by salaries it is clear that last line is omitting the unpleasant truth, that some activities will be cut in order to support others. Making the truth even less palatable is the reduction in time (the number of teachers and their salaries) which is taking place now because of the freeze on hiring. As the York Reports puts it, "These revenue and expenditure estimates...project to a substantial deficit unless York can reduce the rate of growth of its forward commitments. By far the greatest portion of these commitments are to personnel expenditure."

The final correction is a simple one concerning tenure. It read "guaranteed a job (unless they are not grossly incompetent)". It should read, "guaranteed a job (unless they are grossly incompetent)." I should add that at York teachers can be laid off, according to a definite formula, due to a financial crisis. **Harvey Pinder**

Nude liberal covers mag

This letter is a reply to the Editorial "Length and Circumference" (Excalibur, Sept 23, 1977). I cannot comment upon the editorial *per se*, not having actually seen the offending issue, but I would like to challenge the writer's remarks regarding the appearance of semi-nude males on magazine covers.

While we probably aren't ready for such equality in our enticing magazine covers, Saturday Night has forged ahead in this territory. Their May 1977 cover features a handsome, middle-thirties executive, naked, with only a huge cardboard carton preserving common decency. On the box is written: "The perfect liberal man (1977 Model) Identi-kit."

Avante-garde isn't what I would ordinarily call Saturday Night. But there it is. Full-colour. Robert Fulford surprised us again.

Alan Fox

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