

EXCALIBUR

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

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No penalties for fee non-payment

Destructive policies will be at play today in senate. The executive committee is making a motion to rescind a 1969 York ruling and withhold the marks of students not paying their fees. This violates a York senate ruling prohibiting academic fees for non-academic penalties.

The senate, which is faculty dominated, may well feel pushed to the wall on this point. The board of governors has refused to negotiate their salary increases until there is assurance that fees owed the university will be collected.

Senate originally adopted the resolution against academic penalties in recognizing that the university was authoritarian, paternalistic and alienating in its approach to students. It was part of Justice Bora Laskin's task force report on Freedom and Responsibility in the University.

With the board holding a sword over its collective bargaining position, faculty may be tempted to put self-interest first. Must liberal and progressive laws ebb and flow in direct relation to money from government coffers?

Although students have been paying their fees at the rate of \$125,000 to \$150,000 a week since the fee strike ended, there is no guarantee that all \$875,000 in fees owed will be collected. Most students intend to pay up. But consider that they've been hit with a \$300 hike this year — \$100 in tuition and \$200 rise in loan ceilings. Once again, it's the students who truly can't pay who'll bear the brunt of this punitive rule.

There are alternatives. The university could arrange to collect from students as soon as they get jobs; it could re-

institute fines, small ones who haven't paid by next fall; or it could refuse to register students next fall.

But to accept this motion of no pay-no grade without any consideration of the hardships involved is both callous and regressive. It shows the university up for its market values of supply and demand. The rule of no academic penalties was made with thought and study in times of lesser stress. To rescind it now is to act like authority always acts when it's

threatened — it over reacts and shows its true degree of commitment to reform.

The tactic may have the short term effect of scaring Peter into paying Paul, but irreparable damage will be done to student-faculty relations. By putting senate in this position, the board is once again demonstrating its complete insensitivity to the York community. Why doesn't the board pressure the government?

In the meantime, students continue to be the scapegoat. They caused the institution's problems in the first place by staying away in droves. And now they have the audacity to complicate matters by making a fuss when they're told to accept government cutbacks in loans and grants yet still pay higher fees.

As for resolving the crisis, finances is the sole topic. The root cause — the kind and quality of education at York, isn't getting much attention these days.



... Just two more miles, Bonzo, just two more miles ...

Letters

Silcox protested choice of dean

Your report that there was no protest over the recent appointment of a new dean of the faculty of fine arts is incorrect. At the faculty of fine arts council meeting of March 1st, I announced my intention to resign as associate dean in protest over the choice of a dean and the way in which he was chosen. My comments at that time are a part of public record. The search, with all its irregularities, was an appalling and shabby affair which reflects badly upon this university.

My remarks were as follows:

Let me begin by saying what is easiest to say. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Joseph Green on being chosen by the Search Committee and the members of Council. If events proceed normally, which they sometimes do, he will become the next Dean of our Faculty. I have worked closely and amicably with him for nearly three years and I have a warm regard for him as a friend, as a teacher, as a colleague and as a person.

It is more difficult for me to talk about the choice and the manner of choosing a new Dean and I do so without referring to Joseph Green personally, and I know he understands this. There are two major things which perturb me. The first is in relation to the judgments and procedures of the search. I have grave misgivings on both of these and quite frankly, I could not, personally, accept the outcome in light of the manner in which it has been arrived at. I question the criteria that have, or have not, been used to guide us. The second and more important thing is the attitude which accepted the judgments and procedures which guided the choice of the Committee and of the Council members.

I believe that we have made not a serious but a critical mistake. The mistake was not the mistake of choosing the candidate we did.

The mistake was in not choosing someone else. It is as if we had taken the wrong turn at a traffic circle. I do not want to sound like the witches in Macbeth, but I believe that sooner or later we will have to double back and set a new course.

In searching for a Dean, I had imagined that we would be looking for someone who would keep our minds on our major goals and our fundamental reasons for being here, someone who would be an eminent example in artistry and scholarship and who would guide our planning and organization with shrewdness and imagination, someone who would keep our biting edge sharp. Among those people who were considered were some who I know were uncontestably better qualified, more accomplished and of greater stature. Someone said to me, and I think reflected the thoughts of others, that it was simply better to choose someone we knew than someone we didn't know. This attitude is the most depressing, negative, narrow-minded and spineless attitude I can think of. It is contrary to the things we stand for and to the things we are trying to do. We should welcome excellence, experiment, risk and new things. In this search I feel we have not and I count it as a failure on my part that I did not have your confidence in respect to what I think we should have been trying to do.

I do not have confidence in the choice that the Faculty and the Search Committee have made when I know there were others in whom my confidence would have been more complete. I think that the artistic community of Canada will not have the kind of confidence in the choice we have made or in our manner of choosing as I would have hoped. It is with regret, therefore, that I must tell you that if events proceed normally, and sometimes they do, I intend to submit my resignation as Associate Dean to Dean Heller some time in the near future.

Sometimes I think that an institution or an organization takes its form to some extent from the purposes for which it is conceived, that its inner processes are a reflection of its aspirations and its standards. Therefore, I

worry that our manner of choosing may reflect our desires in our real functions and I think we must be careful not to begin to lack confidence in our own sense of our own best interests.

This Faculty is one of the most important things that has ever happened in the arts in Canada. It must continue to grow, not in size, but in stature and in ambition and in accomplishment. It must strive to become the most vital centre for creation, for exhibition and production and for scholarship and research in the arts so that it may be the most vital place for education in the arts. The potential we have for this is great, but we must be open and seek out the best, we must risk more and we must stand on tiptoe to grasp the highest that we can.

DAVID P. SILCOX
Associate Dean
Fine Arts

Explain criticism of Israeli Week

I wish to remind Brock Queenston and Martha Smith that the Israeli Week Program was authorized by York ancillary services.

I haven't heard any negative remarks from other disturbed York students or faculty. The multi-media referred to by the writers needs clarification. The media employed for Israeli Week were music, posters, and slides. How anyone could designate this as a chaotic presentation is beyond me.

The useless flyers were not distributed to York members as the writers inferred, but were on display for the perusal of students and could be taken by any interested party.

I would appreciate clarification from my eminent fellow students on their terms: huckstering, pan-Judaism, and demilitarized.

PHIL HALPERN

Styrofoam cups are pollutants

I have a rather more mundane concern than the sort that regularly appears in your columns but with the virtual non-existence of Pollution Probe on campus, I can think of no better place in which to complain. There are many wasteful practices at York but the one I am most concerned about and the one that is probably most damaging to the environment is the use of styrofoam cups in the cafeterias. Styrofoam does not readily break down into biologically harmless components upon return to the environment via the garbage pail and with the enormous numbers of cups that are used daily the problem, of course, increases correspondingly. If burnt, styrofoam gives off noxious gases; if buried as landfill, it persists; and if flushed into the waterways, it eventually breaks up into small pieces about one-half millimetre in diameter having an unknown effect on sealife — especially small fish.

The problem could be alleviated by more people using the cups and saucers that are provided and that are washable and reusable — a solution that is much less wasteful and that shows a concern for something in addition to one's stomach. But the solution is not so simply because Versafood does not provide enough cups and saucers nor do they wash them with the alacrity necessary for reuse the same day. However, if more people use the cups and saucers and ask for them if none are available and refuse to use styrofoam (it isn't that much of a sacrifice to skip a coffee), then we might impress upon Versafood the necessity for more crockery and less styrofoam. So, please, join with me and drink your coffee out of a cup and saucer or not at all (you might use silverware instead of plastic spoons as well) — and spread the word.

BRUCE W. DUNCAN