

Faculty haven't screwed students

The following is an analysis of recent student matters, seen by the new YSF president.

This is not a policy statement of the York Student Federation, but my personal opinion as president. Right now there are two topics which I've been concerned about. These are the faculty strike, and the current wave of student activism and violence.

The faculty, in my opinion, did not 'screw' the students. The YSF supported the faculty association's position on our own initiative, and no bargain was arranged between us and them.

The reason for supporting the strike was that the council strongly believes that both faculty and students should have an active, representative voice on decision-making bodies at York. To put forward a front that opposed the faculty association might have defeated this objective.

Personally, I was disappointed with the faculty association calling off their strike, as I felt that a precedent of collective action could have come about for both faculty and students had the strike materialized.

I don't believe that the students' council has gained anything tangible in this past development except the establishment of the first of the new council's policy stands.

I feel that the new wave of violence in universities could not be justified at York. The Council, being very young, has not fully investigated the channels of communications, and it is our job to place responsible representative students on the decision-making bodies.

At this time, I can't see the council advocating violence or any other destructive means to achieve what we want, until we have majority student support behind us.

Any students interested in becoming chairmen or members of the Social, Cultural, Athletics, or Fees Commissions, please come to the YSF meeting tonight in Room 291, Behavioural Sciences, at 7:30 p.m.

by Larry Englander

Something just struck me. There are two distinct sets of values around here: one for those who hold power and want to keep it, and one for the powerless. We powerless folk clamor impatiently for reform, while our masters paternalistically pat us on the head and tell us that they're trying to help. Let me make my point through a little ditty:

Back in the days when Rome was great
In centuries of long ago,
The Emperor Octavius
Appeased the masses with a show
They gathered in the Forum
Unmindful of the storm
Which day by day within their land did grow.

CHORUS: Just give 'em circuses,
And give 'em bread,
And give 'em slogans,
When all is said
You'll make 'em happy.

Excalibur has turned page seven into a forum for outside, non-Excaliburian opinion. Here Larry Englander continues his monologue on York-as-a-university-environment-and-how-it-can-be-improved in his third installment. Notice the occasional rhyme this time. Paul Koster puts forth his views — ex cathedra? — on the almost-strike of the faculty in its relationship to YSF support for such an action, and on current-violence taking place in universities.

Larry Goldstein speaks up from way down on quite a few topics. And U.S. university student offers an articulate Canadian-American view on any possible americanization of York. Inspect it and see how you feel about this subject.

The sun is the moon of the day — S.W.

If higher learning is our aim
We come to university.
From the cradle of our high school days
We enter a bureaucracy.
No matter where we turn
We're told what we must learn;
What happened to originality?

CHORUS

Now "Student Power" is a cry
That you will hear the whole world 'round.
They tell us to democratize
And burn the buildings to the ground.
The bureaucrats got scared,
But soon they had prepared
A strategy to keep them safe and sound:

They give us circuses
And they give us bread,
And they give us slogans,
When all is said
They'll make us happy.

Now here they say our Governors
All care about our destiny.
They listen hard with open ears
And heed us down on bended knee.
Some day they'll pass a bill
Designed by common will;
But what happens if the Senate disagrees?

Just give 'em circuses,
And give 'em bread,
And give 'em slogans,
When all is said
You'll make 'em happy.

As an American I was quite amused to read Miss Bohnen's article entitled, "The Americanization of York". For the benefit of your readers, I feel I should correct some of her misconceptions about American Universities. First, however, I should explain a little about myself after having probably 'turned you off' by saying I was an "American". In reality I am a Canadian citizen who just happens to have been living, through no choice of his own, in the United States for the past 4 years. I am presently attending Lehigh University, a small men's school in Pennsylvania best known for its Engineers. However, Lehigh also has an excellent Liberal Arts College, which I am a member of.

I don't know which American colleges Miss Bohnen had in mind when she stated, "The American tradition, emphasizes solid graduate education, neglecting liberal arts undergraduate education." However, the American universities I have come in contact with, especially Lehigh, bear no resemblance whatsoever to Miss Bohnen's description. Even such technically-oriented schools such as Lehigh, Brown, M.I.T. and R.P.I. require all of their undergraduates to spend a predominant part of their first 3 years studying required courses in not only the Fundamental Sciences, but also in the Liberal Arts and Business Colleges.

Up until the time I read "The Americanization of York", I thought that higher education in Canada had progressed to the point that intellectual and academic maturity had finally come of age. The comments of H.S. Thorburn, the head of the political studies dept. at Queens, seem to indicate otherwise.

As a part of the brain drain from Canada to the U.S. in the early 60's, I am very pleased to be able to report that the flow has reversed, a fact which most students at Canadian Universities can recognize. However, after reading Miss Bohnen's article I fear that the reason for this reversal is not evident to the average Canadian student, reinforcing my contention about intellectual and academic maturity on the Canadian campus, or should I say the lack of it.

What I fear is that people like Mr. Thorburn, Professors Steele and Mathews of Carleton, and Miss Bohnen, represent the first ripples of a new wave of Canadian McCarthyism dedicated to purging out all of the dangerous elements, the American "foreigners", from the Canadian campus. "I don't care whether he's got a PhD from Yale or not! He's still an American and can't teach here!" That is what I fear.

The danger, Miss Bohnen, is not the introduction of "the American pattern" to the Canadian campus. Canada can hardly become more 'American' than it is today. The danger is that close-mindedness, call it even prejudice, will prevent capable, intelligent American professors who want to teach in Canada from doing so. If that happens, the Canadian institutions of higher learning will have taken a giant step backward, perhaps an irreparable step.

There is a difference between nationalism and prejudice. Although I'd like to think this call for the exclusion or decrease in American professors was just some spirited post-Centennial nationalism, I fear that it is more likely prejudice. Wake up Canada! Everybody from the U.S. isn't a 'boogey man' out to make Canada the 51st state.

Upon completing my education I would like to return to Canada, a Canada in which I would be treated like a Canadian, not a 'foreigner'. If Canada has become so ingrained in the "American pattern" which Miss Bohnen fears so much, that it has also developed its own style of prejudice and bigotry, I'd rather not return. Now I'm proud to call myself a Canadian. A few years from now I hope I can be equally proud.

James Cameron,
Lehigh University

A view from the bottom of the pile

by Larry Goldstein

PENTAGONORRHOEA and other stuff

On Feb. 14, Alan MacEachen said, according to the Toronto Globe and Mail, "It would be safe to assume the review (of our policy regarding draft dodgers and deserters) will equalize the treatment (of draft dodgers and deserters) and certainly the chances are greater of it being equalized in favour of desertion not being a reason for refusal in either case."

Last week MacEachen reversed himself and said deserters would not be admitted as landed immigrants in Canada. The reasons that MacEachen gave for this change of mind are so specious that even United Church officials were able to shoot them full of holes. The real reason I believe, is that the American State Department doesn't want to lose more deserters to Canada.

Trudeau promised an end to this kind of bullshit. Why don't you write him and let him know you're not fooled by MacEachen's evasiveness.

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You know, of course, that more than a million people have starved to death last year in Biafra. And you know, of course, that Canada still doesn't do anything about aid, and that Pierre (where's Biafra?) Trudeau won't let Canada help, thereby making us all accomplices.

Last fall the CBC did a special on Biafra and of course criticism of M. Trudeau's government was implicit in the text. At a plush cocktail party not long after the program, according to a usually reliable source, our illustrious PM was heard to say, referring to the CBC, "I pay those pricks 200 million dollars a year and look what they do to me."

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Joey Smallwood said Ontario is the fat sow of Canada. I think he meant to say Roberts.

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Tim Delaney wants to be Professor Pritchard when he grows up. What Pritchard wants to be then I don't know. Pritchard pictured himself as savior and builder of York while people like me are just interested in destruction. So Pritchard was going to build by destroying my career.

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When I was last in the States I was rather uneasy — not because it was very different from Canada, but because it was not different enough.

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There are two items I saw in the March issue of Playboy that I just could not help including in the column. The first is a letter to the editor.

"Playboy's interview with Eldridge Cleaver reveals why the Negroes will never amount to anything. Cleaver and the other Negroes are unable to think for themselves. Cleaver is only able to repeat the irrational socialist ideas of Karl Marx — who was not a Negro. At no point in the interview does Cleaver express an original idea. That is a Negro for you. Negroes are inherently inferior to people. Cleaver's statements are valuable in one respect. They show that since his race is engaged in a fight with

the police, every Negro in America must be disarmed. Antigon legislation should only be enforced against the blacks and their allies. Instead of disarming the police — as Cleaver advocates — the police should be given heavier and more powerful weapons, such as bazookas and machine guns, and be ordered to shoot lawless blacks first and ask questions later. It is obvious to all mature and thinking people that we will never have law and order in America until all of the Negroes are deported back to Africa and completely removed from this nation that was founded and built by the great white race. The blacks unwillingly contributed a little sweat, but no intelligence, to the building of this nation — so did the jackasses.

"The white men know what the Negro really wants. He wants our white women. But we would rather die than surrender our precious white women to the black beasts. Cleaver clearly shows that Negroes prefer white women because black women are ugly and stupid. Not even the Negro men want them. Basically, Cleaver and his race are sick and tired of being Negroes and are depressed and sad because science is unable to change them into white people. They are jealous of the beautiful and intelligent white race and ashamed of their own black race. The white race is the superior race, and white supremacy is God's law — the law of nature that God created. Throughout their history, even though they have been in contact with white civilization for over 6,000 years, the Negroes have always been wild savages and always will be. Even so, there is no reason for them to worry because, when the National States Rights Party comes to power, we will solve the race problem and have a white Christian America.

Dr. Edward R. Fields, Direction
National States Rights Party
Savannah, Georgia

Next time somebody tells you some of his best friends are Jews or blacks, you'll know what his real problem is, right?

The next item is straight out of 1984:
From "The Tough Miracle Man of Vietnam," Life magazine, May 13, 1957:

"Ngo Dinh Diem is respected in Vietnam today for the miracles he has wrought. Order has replaced chaos. Communism is being defeated. . . Diem's (greatest) hurdle was the famous 'Geneva elections,' the plebiscite which, according to the 1954 Geneva Agreement, should have been held last July 20. It was supposed to let the people of North and South Vietnam decide whether a reunited country should be governed by anti-Communist Diem or Communist Ho Chi Minh. . . (Diem) knew that it was not a question of who the people would expect to win, and all too many of them would have hedged by voting on the assumption that the Viet Minh might win. Diem saved his people from this agonizing prospect simply by refusing to permit the plebiscite."

Have you ever seen a more blatant example of doubt-think, MacEachen not expected?

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Finally, Professor David Bakan has come up with a rather interesting proposal for students and teachers. It concerns a real alternative to the lecture-and-exam system and Bakan means it to start next fall. If you are interested in finding out more about the plan contact Professor Bakan or Professor Rubinoff at 635-3826.