

# Common consent only for amalgamation

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more compatible”.

Along with the financial difficulties, a threat looms ahead to the colleges in the debate in the faculty of arts on the continuation of the college tutorial program. According to Winter, the combined problems will put the colleges in a very difficult situation.

In this context Winter said, “the amalgamation is the one solution which will cause the least damage to the college system.”

Since Calumet college does not have a building, it will be the easiest to get rid of, said Winter.

This does not simplify matters for the two colleges, and Winter added, “the amalgamation can only occur

through common consent.”

Cunningham and Winter stated to their college students that if amalgamation is to occur, it must be done by the end of the year.

When asked who will make the final decision, Winter said, “if in light of the alternatives for the colleges, both Calumet and Bethune decide that this is the way to go, who else is needed?”

Cunningham told Bethune college council that he presumes that the Calumet students will be distributed throughout the college network but they will have a choice as to where they want to go. Like Winter, he said that most students will come to Bethune.

The students will graduate with a Calumet degree no matter what college they go to, Cunningham said.

Cunningham later said that “the alternatives would be a horrendous cut in the already woefully small master’s budget.” This cut would mean that there no longer would be cultural and social programs unless financed by the students.

Cunningham said that with the problems in view, priorities must be set so that none of the students, faculty or staff suffer. With this in mind, Cunningham said amalgamation as one solution makes sense because “students, fellows and staff would have some control over their own destiny”.

One problem facing the two colleges if they do amalgamate is reaching a decision on what will happen to the two contrasting

student governments.

Calumet college holds general meetings where all decisions are made by a democratic vote by all present. All Calumet students have a vote at the meetings.

Bethune college holds a general election at the end of every year to elect representatives to sit on council for the following school year. All decisions are voted upon by these elected representatives.

Neither Cunningham or Winter for see this difference as any great problem if there is a congenial relationship between Bethune and Calumet.

Cunningham said, “I don’t think the Bethune students are in any way threatened.”

Viewing Calumet as a “distinct and interesting community”, Cunningham added that, “Bethune will be enriched by Calumet.”

Although both Cunningham and Winter were confident that some decision will be reached, the nature of the decision was unclear by the various terms used by them throughout the discussions. Both masters used the words “amalgamating”, “collapsing” and “combining” for the future of Calumet.

At the informal discussion held at Calumet during their general meeting, one student was met with applause, when commenting on the possibility of amalgamation he said,

“it seems like it is not the most logical choice to make - just the easiest”.

The student added, “we should be fighting to maintain ourselves.”

Excalibur went to the students to find out their reaction to the possible amalgamation.

Bruce Terry, chairperson of the Bethune college council, said that in the light of the budget crisis he can understand the rationale and desirability behind amalgamation.

Apart from the financial aspect of the situation, Terry looked at the identities that both colleges have worked on to achieve.


“Both Calumet and Bethune’s identities are very exciting and a mixture of the two would not only dissipate the energies of both forces but might result in an undesirable conflict of interests”.

Chris Winter, chairperson of the Calumet general meetings, said that although there are only about 200 people who actually identify with the college, it is desirable that it continues to exist as a separate identity on campus.

Apart from this desire, Winter said there is the realization that “if we don’t amalgamate there is a chance we won’t exist in a couple of years.”

Both college councils will be holding meetings in the upcoming weeks to formally discuss the situation.

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## News briefs

Birth Death and Insanity is a play festival being held in Stong College. Featured will be two one-act plays. The Zoo Story by Edward Albee and A Sailboat named Zack written by Sarah Lawley. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. on February 7,8 and 9 at the Stong Theatre (room 112 Stong, adjacent to the J.C.R.). Punch will be served prior to the performance and during intermission. A good time will be had by all.

Friday, February 3, Radio York is presenting The Joe Thomson Band live at Bethune Dining Hall. Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$1.50. Doors open at 8:30. The Joe Thomson Band has currently released their first single, “The Alien”. Their debut album is forthcoming.

Their manager, Mike McGuire, who is a student at York has arranged for his band to play at the dance in order to raise funds for Radio York.

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