

Excalibur

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

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Spirit makes Calumet different

If the survival of Calumet depended upon the enthusiasm of its members its worries would be over. At a time when other colleges are complaining about student apathy the term is almost unknown here.

What makes Calumet different? Perhaps it is the community spirit of the place.

Calumetians do things together, plan social events often using their own talent, display their own student artwork and participate in any decision regarding the way their college will be run.

Business is discussed at general meetings held on the second Wednesday of every month. These informal gatherings take place in the "living room", a sort of common room in disguise. (Instead of upholstered plastic forms it is furnished with comfortable old chesterfields.) After the meeting there is the "feast", now a Calumet tradition. Everyone brings food to these events which attract from 50 to 100 persons.

Another regular happening is the silent film showing every Sunday. When they can get him, pianist Charles Hoffman provides musical accompaniment to the movies.

Most social events are free and, as one former Winters student pointed out, you get more for your money at Calumet.

Enthusiasm for the college also extends to the staff who appear to like the relaxed atmosphere. Valerie Smith, assistant to master Ian Sowton, described her feelings on the matter: "I have a definite emotional attachment to the place probably because I was a student here. It's different from all the other colleges more student-oriented. How many of them will let the students come in and use the telephone and typewriters in the main office?"

It seems unfortunate that a college as vibrant and unique as Calumet faces possible extinction.

However, Ian Sowton, sees no cause for alarm.

"The danger in Calumet's future is that we will be forced for perfectly good reasons, out of our present space and there may not be any other suitable space."

SOWTON EXPLAINS

Sowton outlined four possible options for the college.

The first recourse would be for Calumet to "iron things out so that we can stay as we are." Secondly, the university could press the government for a change in the present space formula. (York has a space surplus of between 20 to 25 per cent).

The third option suggested by the administration would be to consolidate this extra space. But this would involve marrying Calumet with another college, and would, Sowton explained, amount to its collapse.

The only feasible solution left would be to put Calumet into cold storage until the government lifts its freeze on capital spending or until York begins to qualify under the present formula for more space. Of course, there is the possibility York could raise funds privately to finance a new building, but given the university's current fiscal crisis this is highly unlikely.

The question remains—is there really a Calumet crisis? Reactions have ranged from mild panic to extreme optimism, but the important thing is that the problem is now out in the open. In any event, there is no cut-back in activity at Calumet.



Out of the game

Admin. sources clam up make our task harder

Following are a few notes and comments from an editor's diary.

Reporter Dale Ritch revealed that obtaining information for his budget article (see page 2) was as easy as growing cabbage in Central Square... in February. Few sources would divulge information. Those who did often refused to elaborate. It's almost a certainty the administration already knows the persons to be released and where, to meet budget cutbacks. If it doesn't, then our leaders are guilty of very sloppy budget management.

The movement to boycott the Central Square

cafeteria is growing, led by people fed up with lousy food at crummy prices... Next week, we'll have more on the boycott, including interviews with students who regularly eat at the Central Square location

We still need more staff to cover all of the available and urgent stories on this campus. We'd also like to broaden our base to provide, first-hand, news of general interest to the York community. If you have any community interests like transportation, local politics or housing, tell us about them. Better still, write about them.

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Michael Lawrence

The space race solution: One less college

The dilemma that Calumet College faces is one of the first, and certainly not the last, calamity that this year's budget will cause. This situation is particularly painful considering that Calumet has been one of the few York colleges that has been successful in the original conception of what the college system was to supply.

My first encounter with Calumet was as a reporter with Excalibur, investigating a fraudulent letter of resignation that had been sent to this newspaper. The letter was signed with a counterfeit signature of John Mays, who was then and still is the student liaison-adviser for Calumet students. Though the letter was a fraud, Mays and the rest of the Calumet community are not. The key to Calumet's popularity lies in that word community. Since its beginning, Calumet has been able to generate a community spirit among its members. The unique success of Calumet is even more mysterious considering that all of its members are commuter students as the college still remains without residence facilities.

Calumet's secret formula for its popularity is a simple one, so it remains surprising that other colleges have failed to follow suit. Contrary to regular York college philosophy, students

want more than just simple entertainment. Calumet has recognized this and gone one step further.

Not satisfied with simply supplying the occasional movie for its members, Calumet's approach has always been personal. The monthly "banquet" brings members of the college together for a communal celebration. Members bring food and share with the rest of the college. The college itself supplies food as well as beverages in addition to the night's fare of entertainment. Poetry readings, movies, small cabarets are a few of the offerings made at these monthly meetings.

To talk of Calumet as some physical entity unto itself is unfair to what the college has become. Given three rooms in Atkinson, the members of the college have made Calumet a working collective of individuals, instead of a college based on its physical surroundings.

The decision by Calumet council to use a part of its funds to hire John Mays as a constantly available source of student stimulation and advice is only one example of that community's desire to generate a communal spirit. Yet it seems Calumet's future existence is in peril, a consequence of a meaningless space formula

that denies the value Calumet represents.

The whole college question has been beaten around ever since the original conception. The plan for York to become a university with a large residence population was upset by a general trend of student disinterest with university life. As a result, York's towers for incoming students remain half empty, with Versaford trying hard to eliminate the brave half who chose to come.

If the other colleges are ever to prove their merit, the grand opportunity to do it is now. Even President Michael Mouritsen can get himself some good pre-election publicity by joining the bandwagon. Rumor has it that Michael M. is gearing up for re-election, so let him add to the long list of unfulfilled campaign promises that he supports Calumet's right to future existence. The separate college councils can make similar demands, and with good reason. The second sacrifice is always easier after the first.

It must come to the attention of the administration that some cuts cost more than they save. This is certainly true in Calumet's case, a college which has fully earned its right to continue its existence at York.

Just ask the students who belong.