

Excalibur

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

The manipulators are alive in CYSF

Irma Papenheim, executive assistant and secretary to the CYSF for two and a half years may be getting the boot. It has been learned from some CYSF councillors that finance commissioner Rob Macrae has recently had some "personality clashes" with Miss Papenheim. Macrae, as you will recall, is the person who originally ran for the CYSF presidency and then dropped out at the last minute and instead took an acclamation as a rep in Winters College. Since that time Macrae has succeeded in obtaining the finance commission.

It's no secret that Macrae is one of the most influential members on the CYSF executive and it has become clear to observers and councillors alike that even president Mike Fletcher has taken a back seat to him.

Macrae is on an "efficiency" kick at CYSF and apparently Miss Papenheim is not efficient enough to fit into the Macrae empire. (She doesn't jump fast enough when he says jump). Mind you, three councils were able to work with Miss Papenheim, but now all of a sudden she has become inefficient.

We're not saying we're opposed to Macrae's efforts to streamline the council per se; such streamlining is long overdue. But it appears that he has forgotten the human factor in all his re-organization.

It's hard to tell what Fletcher's position on this issue is, but his telling Miss Papenheim that her "head is on the block, as it were," (see page 3) is one of the most callous things we've ever heard a councillor

say to someone — especially someone whose very livelihood is at stake.

Unfortunately, after viewing Tuesday's CYSF meeting EXCALIBUR fears that most CYSF councillors don't even know what's going on. It appears, in fact, that many councillors are being manipulated. (That no one seriously challenged the \$1,500 "debt" owed by CYSF to Founders College is also indicative of this clever manipulation.)

As for Miss Papenheim, she has been around for two and a half years. Her livelihood stems from the salary she makes as an executive assistant for CYSF and she has been loyal to every council she has ever worked for. For a bunch of power-tripping kids, who have scarcely been in office a month, to come along and threaten to give her the axe ("as it were") is nothing short of criminal. We feel councillor Jim Beatty summed up the situation accurately when he said:

"I was appalled at the flippancy with which this council deals with human beings."

Beatty also hit the nail on the head when commenting on a suggestion that someone should define Miss Papenheim's role:

"I think members of the executive should know theirs, too."

We couldn't agree more with Beatty and we would suggest that the CYSF members responsible for this latest misguided action get some experience under their own belts before presuming to pass judgment on a dedicated council veteran of two and a half years.



"Sorry, we don't believe in gold watches."

Security slip-up

Take a look at the picture on page three. EXCALIBUR has been fairly quiet about York's security team so far, but things are getting a bit ridiculous when thieves jack up a car in the middle of a parking lot (with the owner's own jack, yet) and then merrily proceed to dismantle the guy's front tires completely unhampered by our men in blue.

Campus security at this university is pathetic. Last year thieves went so far as to steal both of security's walkie-talkies. Also last year, thieves sauntered up to the 7th floor graduate lounge in the Ross building, took the entire hi-fi out of its cabinet, and then cheerfully walked off with it.

This year there have been so many thefts we scarcely know where to begin criticizing. On one evening there were 30 thefts from one parking lot alone. We at EXCALIBUR are more than aware of the efficiency exhibited by our security guards when it comes to checking for incorrectly affixed parking stickers but we're not so sure that this is where the pressing need exists.

If Physical Plant has money to test bikes (as they did earlier this year) for the use of its staff members in the steam tunnels, then surely funds can be found for more security men and patrol cars. Let's get them soon, before somebody runs off with the main gatehouse.

Letters to the Editor

Posters again

A couple of weeks ago, you printed a letter of mine under the heading "Wall Pollution". In the same issue, I was pleased to see another letter on the same subject, namely: excess posterism around York. In the issue of the following week you printed a full page announcement taking a stand against poster pollution. All power to you. But the situation is not improving, which is to say it is worsening. I propose a solution ... for those who care.

Clip out the slogan beneath, and stick it to the poster of your choice. Don't stick it anywhere else except on a poster, the object is to fight a plague not to cause one. Don't stick it on a poster which already bears a sticker. Cigarettes carry health warnings, so why shouldn't posters carry pollution warnings?

CAUTION! THIS POSTER HAS ALREADY KILLED A TREE AND SPOILED A WALL. DON'T READ IT!

Derek Best

Reply to Axelrod

I write this letter with little hope of seeing it published in EXCALIBUR. After all what I intend to say is neither fashionable nor particularly pleasant. The truth hurts. Yet it is time that someone was really honest in describing the true nature of the myths about York.

I wish to reply to Paul Axelrod's comments concerning misconceptions of life at York. After paragraphs of rhetoric, liberally laced with emotionalism, Axelrod makes a final plea to York's publicizers to "express themselves openly to students and members of the community about the true nature of York".

And what is this "true nature"? According to Axelrod, it is an "alienating and rapidly deteriorating educational system" which has destroyed class participation, and annihilated any meaning in the daily life of York University.

Thus we find that it is the system — the nasty, power-mad university structure which has created all our ills. It is the hierarchy which has destroyed initiative.

It's the administration that produces Joe Apathetic Yorkite who doesn't care as long as he passes. It's the system, of course, that has made student apathy a fashionable attribute. Vanier had no elections this year, solely because of an oppressive organisation not disinterested students.

Students — disinterested? Students — actually contributing to the demise of York? What heresy! Students — as cynical as uninspired as the administration described by our all-knowing scribe? Of course not. Don't you agree with Mr. Axelrod that we the students can do no wrong?

Don't fool yourself. Are you going to swallow that line? Just think about it. You're all supposed to be fairly intelligent. Think — then, who it is who's really to blame for apathy and alienation. If you're honest with yourself, you'll realize that it's everyone of you who goes to York and doesn't care. It's everyone who contributes nothing to the York community. It's all you who sit and complain and do nothing more.

So what are you going to do about it? York is, pardon the cliché "only as good as you make it". The first step towards viable university is ceasing to believe that stone-age myth that the powers that be control your fate. Accept the fact that you do affect your destiny. It is, then, your responsibility to get involved, to build up instead of tearing down. Once you leave worn-out myths

behind you, learning can be exciting and community at York even better.

Pat Dean
Mac. I

Glendon memories

Perhaps this letter should be directed to David Slater and John Warkentin instead of Excalibur in order to keep it secret and in the "confidential" vein in which these gentlemen wish to work. After all public opinion on decisions does not always follow in line with sound administrative planning!

I am referring to the fact that our future as a college (Glendon) is now to be decided "in camera" thus eliminating all student participation except by our token representative, Oliver Kent.

The fate of Chuck Edwards, a graduate student in engineering at Queens last year, was made in the same manner by a committee that also included our illustrious Dr. Slater. (I am informed by usually reliable sources.)

The decision in that case was to expel Chuck from the university for his politics. I wonder if Glendon's fate might be similar under a parallel situation.

There is no reason to alienate our student union as a whole in this manner — outside of perhaps the fear of an unpopular decision. How much attention will be given under these circumstances to the comments of our people — the people I might add that any decision will directly affect.

Let us in on the true reasons for this move or reopen the task force, you who feel more comfortable in private. We want our college to know exactly why and how any proposals were arrived at. The memory of Chuck Edwards lingers with a foul air in this atmosphere.

Paul Johnston
Glendon II

Excalibur

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