

Editorial

Tutorial option questionable?

Last Thursday, York's Council on Academic Planning and Policy voted to make college tutorials optional, and to encourage full time faculty members to teach them.

What that will mean is that the university will be offering fewer tutorials taught by fewer part-timers. To us the plan sounds like a thinly disguised way to rid of both.

While the Council may treat the tutorials and those who teach them costly and unnecessary appendages to the university, we do not.

It is somewhat ironic that for all of these years the P.R. department of this university has been continually stressing that one of the most redeeming and exclusive features of York is its ability to offer students an alternative to the

rigidity of other universities. York was to enable students to receive a well-rounded higher education. Students were to be given a chance to explore various academic areas without being penalized. Our young university was to be a place of enrichment, where students would be encouraged to broaden the scope of their education.

During these two hours a week a student was encouraged to express his or her thoughts in discussions with classmates, and had the opportunity of receiving the personal attention from instructors which is becoming so rare around here. It also gave students a chance to interact with instructors from the outside world, —whether they be lawyers, poets, architects or business managers—

instructors who offered different insights.

The college tutorial was to offer students a chance to pursue their special interests, whether they were related to their proposed academic majors or not. It was an exercise in stimulating one's intellectual curiosity in what we think had the potential of being close to the ideal classroom situation.

Perhaps we are being a bit idealistic. Maybe we should once again be reminded that this is an age of specialization in which the liberal arts may likely become obsolete. Maybe. But with the liberal arts on the way out, can York be far behind?

What makes York valuable to students who would otherwise

head to U of T, is that York is (was?) willing to take risks—to experiment, to allow students to further their education outside of the overcrowded lecture halls that has become so much a part of university.

The slow demise of the college tutorial heralded by the move to make them an optional part of the York programme, seems to point to the same fact for York's spirit of adventure. Diversity in teaching, once applauded, is giving way to a less costly uniformity of approach. Giving students crowded lecture classes for the duration of their university stay might look good to the university's accountants, but must we leave university policy to them?

Those who would say 'no' are a dying breed.

Budget

Well, once again it's CYSF budget time, and once again *Excalibur* gets cut - this year more than 50 per cent.

The cuts, thankfully, don't hurt us as much as they might. For some organizations, like the Campus Connection, there is no funding but for student government. Unlike them, we generate most of the money we spend (a claim that the CYSF can't make).

But while the cuts don't wound us mortally, we still wonder why we're being asked to endure them at all.

The answer this year seems to be that "the pie is shrinking", to quote one Council member. With less money to spend than last year, there's no way that everyone can be satisfied. We're lucky (this line of reasoning continues) to be getting as much as we are.

All this would be much more

convincing to us if the members of the Council acted as if they believed it themselves. But they clearly don't. Last year they embarked on a new business venture - the Lyceum used book store - before their first one had even started paying its own bills.

If the Council is as strained as they would have us believe, then why are they embarking on two (count 'em) deficit incurring endeavours? Why not wait until they can better afford them?

The reasoning we have always been given is twofold.

First, students aren't well served by existing services. The Council, unconcerned with profits, can do better for them, offering similar or superior services at substantial savings.

Second, in times of never ending cutbacks, it's only reasonable to expect the university to eat into the funds

that the CYSF collects. What with inflation, and then these cutbacks, the CYSF will be strapped for cash unless it has an independent source of income.

The more subtle minds among our readers will notice that the two rationales contradict each other: The businesses are being run without profit, to help students. At the same time they're contributing their (nonexistent) profits to the financially strapped CYSF.

All this talk about making profits and providing services is academic though, because the Council businesses aren't doing either.

Lyceum, the Council's new baby, is known primarily among students as the only place in Central Square that's never crowded. What they don't know is that it is costing students \$2,000 just for the books it'll buy this year. Salaries and rent are extra of

course, and where they'll be coming from even the Council isn't sure of yet. They're not included in the budget, and so remain something of a mystery.

No less a mystery is just how much the store is costing the students in total. *Excalibur's* original request for access to Lyceum's financial records was refused. Shortly after, the Council changed its mind, and we expect to see them soon, some two months after the original request.

Then there is the typing service. While its location in Founders College is a convenience to many students, the convenience is not without its cost. Customers pay some 50 cents more per page at the service than with other advertised typists. They're also paying \$5000 to outfit their office. What with service which even Council members admit is uneven at best, we wonder whether its such a bargain after all.

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CAMP TOWHEE, Haliburton, Ontario—7 week (June 27—August 17) co-educational residential camp for children with learning disabilities (ages 8-12) is hiring staff—cabin counsellors; waterfront, arts & crafts, nature instructor; remedial math, reading, writing, gross motor and speech and language instructors; nurse; maintenance people.

Applications and additional information available through campus Placement Office.

Orientation session to be held on Monday, February 2, 1981 from 9:00—10:00 a.m. Interviews to follow. Check Placement Office for location.

Completed applications must be returned to your Student Placement Office no later than January 23, 1981.

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