Why we are voting no

The referendum on the chapel donation is tomorrow.

These are our reasons for voting no:

The chapel is very low on the priority list for this university — the money being used for a chapel should go to library books, or part of lecture hall number two, or any one of a dozen other essential needs.

The chapel has been imposed on this university — no students were consulted at any time on whether or not the donation should be accepted exclusively for a chapel.

The chapel will cost over 12,000 a year to maintain — a sum which will have to mean one less professor next year.

The chapel is donated by W.P. Scott, chairman of the Board of Governors — a man who has been here since York first started in 1959 — a man who is fully aware of the financial needs and the established priorities of this university (he helped draw up these priorities) — a man well aware there wasn't supposed to be a chapel until 1980.

The donor of the chapel has refused to allow his donation to go to any other need, regardless of how pressing, and has said if we don't accept his chapel he will withdraw the donation. But the donor has also told several students in private discussions that he will give the money to medical research, one of his favourite charities, if we turn it down.

The donor and the Board have refused to agree to accept the results of this referendum, IF THEY DON'T LIKE THE RESULTS?, effectively telling students that we can play at having some responsibility in what happens to our university, but not to get involved in important issues.

Several religious groups have publicly opposed the chapel — saying there is no place for a pseudo-religious centre on this campus — there are already over 15 religious centres (churches, etc.) within a five mile radius of this campus.

Interest in getting to church is not high enough to warrant such an amount of money to be used for a campus chapel — a year ago the administration discontinued running a Sunday bus service to local churches because of lack of student interest.

The issues behind the chapel debate:

By imposing his preference for a donation which disregards this university's essential needs, one man has asserted his personal sense of priorities on this university.

The idea of donating to universities is most laudable, but any man concerned enough to realize the need for donations should also realize the importance of the university itself using all possible money as the school sees fit, to best benefit society; and not allowing outside donors to tell the school what it must do and build.

The necessity of a chapel on this campus has never been discussed, only one man has told us it is a need. Perhaps York does need a chapel, in the sense that religion in the form of buildings should be here. But no such debate has ever taken place. We have never been allowed any such debate. We have never been allowed to consider our needs, spiritually or physically.

The fact that the donation can go to medical research, if we prefer, (since the donor has refused to consider any other pressing need on this campus) is a perfect chance for students to rally, now we are aware of what society is in dire need, and we want and will do something to ease human suffering, by aiding medical research.

By threatening to withdraw the donation (but put it where it is more needed,) and the threat to ignore whatever students decide, the Board is intimidating students, literally pushing us around. Board and senior administrators have openly argued that the general student body doesn't care about the donation anyway, and has repeatedly assured opponents students will vote yes. The Administration is sure the issue is dead, that students just aren't interested enough to vote no. Are they really so wise at gauging what a largely non-committal campus they have created? Are we really so non-committal to go without more library books, if such a donation situation should arise. Are we really so unconcerned to ignore a half-million dollar contribution to medical research?

To refuse the chapel donation will not harm this campus in any form, particularly when it is realized the donation has been steered to a hospital. To accept the donation is to accept the fact someone else controls us, controls our access to books and buildings.

Vote no. You don't hurt your education, and you help make this a better university, now and in the future.

Vote no.

EDITORIAL

Excalibur March 13, 1969

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tuesday nite LIFE IS: shit with a pink ribbon (gbo) .. a big screw (grant) .. an all day sucker (tonypoo).. life (joel-zen). .me & my staff, loving each other (ross).. $5,000 worth of Nikons (coop) .. a nice fat boy (schmendel).. isn't (olga) ..an 8-8 tie (waller).. editorial pages at 2 am (elgie) ..a hot chickee (uncle pat).. a mauve-colored claire (richie)..LIFE IS: reg haney.