

A view from the bottom of the pile

THE VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PILE is a weekly column by Larry Goldstein and Stuart P. Hertzog.

Now we come to the nitty-gritty. In the two previous columns we discussed community and freedom; myths that are used to keep students in line. Elitism, the subject of today's column, is the crunch. It is THE MYTH without which the university would stop.

We know why you're here.

You believe that by going to college you'll eventually end up at the top of the heap. Some of you are here for the money and prestige; others search for intellectual aggrandisement. All of you will be disappointed.

For this university, like every other, is cheating you. It holds out the carrot of financial reward. There is some truth in that statistically you will eventually make more money than the local average. But first, you will work for years at low-paying, mundane and boring jobs.

Most of you will never, repeat, never be in any position of real decision making. The only decisions you will ever be able to make are those that are acceptable to the *real* elite — those who rule through the agency of people like you, the college-trained professional.

For those of you who stay in academic circles the pattern will be similar. After long years of research, after boring hours of committee work and bitter bouts of politicising you will achieve intellectual recognition — to do what the Businessmen tell you. After all, they have set up the academic community to administer to their needs. If you propose any real change, you become dangerous to the power structure and will have to be put down. In a word, this is tokenism.

The university beats you with the spectre of failure. Its mythical function is to select out those worthy individuals who will rise with their talents to the highest positions of society. Therefore those who don't make it are unworthy.

Going to university in North America has become like an initiation rite. Passing silly examinations has taken on a mystical significance. History has shown us that the real leaders and creators in society have functioned in spite of the prevalent social criteria and institutions. They had risen above the image of themselves that society impressed upon them. They achieved the fullness that modern society mitigates against.

But the majority cannot see things as they really are. They can only accept, either through ignorance or short-sightedness or stupidity, what they are told is true. This is why these myths we have outlined exist in our university. The majority do not accept them as myths; and in doing so play right along with the ruling elite.

It is a sick, sad scene all round. Both inside the universities and in the wider society we are witnessing what a mess these people are making. In this column we are going to tell you about Biafra and budgets, Administrative culpability and American imperialism. It is all part of the same picture, we cannot separate out any "safe" issues for students, to "debate". We must tell you as it is: you must act yourself.

One way of behaving is to drop out entirely and refuse to play their game according to their rules. Then at least you will have your self-respect. If you want to go on learning, there are Free Schools or Rochdale.

Another alternative is to stay and fight, using our collective power — student power, such as it is — to force these monopolists to change. We have a slight chance to improve this school and maybe society if we continue to struggle.

But in order to do anything we must first recognize our enemies; see through the smoke-screen of their myths. They are using them to divide and to rule us. But in their doing this they are trapped and enraptured by them.

We are not. We are free.

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photo by Dave Cooper

... and 30 of these belong to students ... "

Rent-a-cops foiled in parking pantomime

Special to Excalibur

Last Friday (Oct. 11) the York S.S. Officers towed away Dr. Geoffrey Hunter's (better known as Founders Don, Geoff Hunter) car from parking lot C to the compound at the physical plant building. J.A. Thomson, York's director of Safety and Security, has been threatening to impound Dr. Hunter's car for several weeks. Thomson apparently chose this Friday before the Thanksgiving weekend, as the time most likely to inconvenience Dr. Hunter. The rent-a-cops did not even have the courtesy to tell Geoff his car had been towed away.

Geoff found his car in the Physical Plant compound about 9 p.m. He found that the rent-a-cops had immobilized it by removing the high tension wire connecting the ignition coil to the distributor. Mustering his technical insight and initiative to the situation, Dr. Hunter discovered that a University Pontiac station wagon parked nearby, was fitted with the same ignition equipment as his own Chev. He transferred the high tension wire from the university Pontiac to his own car, and drove away.

Come Saturday morning the rent-a-cops were surprised to find Geoff's convertible parked in lot BB. They were patrolling campus issuing tickets to residents' cars parked around the college complex. Perhaps you would expect them to have more sense than to ticket cars during the holiday weekend? Not so our dear moronic rent-a-cops. As non-thinking executors of the York Parking Regulations, they were only doing their duty. After discovering Dr. Hunter's Chev in lot BB, the S.S. Officers phoned for the tow truck. However they were foiled once again, since the red convertible had disappeared when the tow truck arrived — Geoff had gone shopping.

The background to this story, is Dr. Hunter's refusal to pay outstanding parking fines from last year (7 tickets — \$28), so that he cannot obtain a new parking permit for 1968-69. As a member of

the faculty, he is able to resist the demands of the S.S. Officers relatively unscathed — if you are a student, the administration will withhold your final grades until you pay! Geoff takes the view that parking stickers are unnecessary for cars using the external lots, and that parking fee of \$15 a year (25c a day for Atkinson students) is illegitimate on financial grounds. The parking lots on the campus have been constructed by a specific capital grant from the Ontario Government. As an Ontario taxpayer Geoff reckons that he has already paid for a parking space on the campus. The money collected as parking fees and fines pays for the wages and salaries of the rent-a-cops and administrators such as Thomson. Since the parking control duties of the rent-a-cops do not benefit the people using the external lots, Dr. Hunter reasons that there is no economic justification for charging them parking fees at all.

Geoff also points out that there will be several side benefits from the abolition of parking stickers and fees. Firstly it will reduce traffic congestion in the lines of cars entering the campus during the morning and evening (Atkinson) rush hours, since they will no longer have to stop for a sticker check. For this reason rent-a-cops will no longer be needed on all the campus entrances. The University will save money in this way, as well as by a reduction in administrative costs. Finally fewer rent-a-cops about the place will enhance life on the campus as a University.

Dr. Hunter also holds critical views on several other issues and problems connected with parking, which as he says all arise from the non-functional design of the York Campus. For the present he is campaigning for the abolition of parking fees and stickers for users of the external lots. The \$15 a year fee is such a glaring anomaly that he doesn't see how the administration can defend it. He says he is prepared to take the issue as far as Queen's Park if necessary.



Dave Cooper

... and none of these belong to faculty ... "