

College councils or SRC? says President Murray Ross.. There must be both

by Dave Wargá

EXCALIBUR: Is there a need at York for university-wide government?

Dr. Ross: Yes, but we have to work very hard to define functions. Organizations should follow function. I have found that the college councils are not so much against Student Representative Council but confused as to the functions it is to have. Only after you define the functions can the master planners take over and design.

EXCALIBUR: How should this body be set up?

Dr. Ross: We shouldn't try to structure anything too rapidly now. Whatever we create should be relatively flexible at this stage. We must remember that there will be more than just the colleges in the future. We will have a law faculty, a Fine Arts Faculty among others, and an SRC must draw from all these units.

EXCALIBUR: It has been said that an SRC would destroy the College System. As the man who is most

responsible for creating this system do you agree?

Dr. Ross: A student's life centres around his college, and in later years his college major department.

EXCALIBUR: Is this how you would define the college system?

Dr. Ross: Yes. It is simply that a student is a member of a distinct college and his contact is mainly with the students, master, and activities of the college.

EXCALIBUR: Should SRC be run by the colleges or by university-wide representatives?

Dr. Ross: There must be both. It would be wise to have some people who take the broad perspective of the campus as a whole and not from a restricted college point of view. Such people as the editor of EXCALIBUR.

EXCALIBUR: Perhaps now. But in future it will be necessary for the media to remain objective in examining politics.

Dr. Ross: Yes, you are quite right, but you do need someone who is informed on a university-wide level.



'I would like to see the students work this out themselves'

But I also couldn't conceive of an SRC made up of people entirely outside of the colleges. The colleges will only survive if they have important functions to perform. College Councils have the responsibility for the rules and regulations of all college activities (athletic, social, drama, college lectures, college debates).

EXCALIBUR: It has been said that university-wide government could be a drain on college funds. The colleges now get \$17 per student. Is there any chance of

renegotiating this in future?

Dr. Ross: Certainly. The present contract was worked out two years ago for a three year run. That would mean that next year we will have to look this contract over. As a matter of fact, ACSA (Advisory Committee on Student Affairs) has already been asked to consider this issue.

I would like to see the students work this out themselves; not by arguing, but by discussing the needs of the university and the functions which will be delegated.

more

letters . . .

Dear Sir:

Once again the cry for an end to the war in Vietnam is echoing across the world. People are becoming increasingly aware and concerned about the death and destruction wrought by this conflict—a conflict which has dragged on for several years and promises to drag on for many more if nothing is done soon to find a solution to this, the greatest problem the world faces today. Demonstrations occurred two years ago in an attempt to end this wasteful war. Demonstrations occurred again last spring to end this conflict. Demonstrations are planned for October 21. Yet, the results will be the same—failure. Until the message of peace reaches all belligerents, not just the United States and its allies, the war will continue. Multilateral action is essential for a satisfactory solution and an enduring peace. Both sides must be willing to accept the responsibilities of a peaceful settlement. Until this happens the war will continue.

Vilnis Petersons
Vanier III

Student power is more than just a button slogan

by Glen S. Williams

Next time you see someone with a button which says: "Student Power" - don't laugh. There is more behind the thought than a simple play on words.

"Student Power" is NOT an attempt by the students to take over the educational system. We do not want the power to hire and fire teachers and administrators but we want a voice in such decisions. We do not want to dictate to society what it must do for "us" but we want to contribute positively with the resources at our disposal.

"Student Power" is NOT civil disobedience. We do not advocate violent disorders unless there is no other viable alternative.

Finally, "Student Power" is NOT a meaningless slogan of campus oddballs who feel insecure unless they are involved in a revolution. On the contrary, "Student Power" is both constructive and rational.

It is a program of action based on the premise that our

educational system is rotten to the core and must be reformed as quickly as possible. Instead of turning out free, creative individuals it trains you to do three things; 1) to accept authority with as little fuss as possible, 2) to rely on the thinking of your "superiors", 3) to get as much formal education as possible so that you can fit into a well-paid niche in society.

Advocates of "Student Power" urge you to take action on a collective basis to correct these evils. It is impossible for individuals to exert much pressure on the existing decision-making apparatus unless they have some degree of support behind them.

What about the student strike? To someone who believes in "Student Power" it is the ultimate weapon. In the university and in the society we are dealing with a corporate mind and with corporate structures. It has been demonstrated by the trade-unions that the most effective way to achieve your ends in the

corporate society is to collectively refuse to work in the system.

Undeniably, the student strike is a powerful instrument of reform, but should be used with caution. First of all, it is doubtful if the student body would strike on anything but the most crucial of issues. It is also possible that the "we-they" complex that we fear so much in our dealings with the administration would develop during such action.

Despite its disadvantages, however, we should not be afraid to think about striking to achieve our ends. In some cases, it may be the only alternative.

So, don't be afraid to wear a button which says "Student Power". There are a lot of changes needed within the university and society. Collective action will give us a strong position when we begin to articulate our complaints.

If the students of the universities UNITE they have everything to gain.

Throwing a wrench into the education machine

by Jim Lennox

After a few sad attempts at democracy, some wise person realized that an educated and informed public was needed to make democracy work. A machine was built to carry out the task at hand. After many perfections, THE EDUCATION FACTORY was ready to turn out its product from an assembly line that created identical minds, with interchangeable parts. Each was filled with the same quotes and formulas, and, hurrah, ready to vote.

Until some one threw a spanner in the works.

Over the last few years, more and more disillusioned students have opted out of college. They came seeking a relaxed forum, where ideas would be torn apart, examined, and rebuilt, hopefully a little bit better. Instead, they found THE FACTORY.

They thought they might be judging too quickly. They sat with hundreds of others, eyes glued to the TV screen which served as their professor. However, this professor was

not programmed for questions. The same "whys" went unanswered while formulas and French words were pumped through their heads by glossy, shining tapes. Each year the benevolent government made it easier to attend. Each year, the lecture halls looked more like cattle pens than the year before. Someone asked, "Is the theatre really dead?" Someone said, "I quit."

When too many said this, the FACTORY management searched for the spot where

their machinery had broken down. Almost too late, they understood. You couldn't run humans through an assembly line. They don't follow leaders, like sheep, without a good reason. The word was spoken; in-div-id-u-al.

They were, for the first time, faced with a problem. Make the factory human, allow each product a unique pattern. And then they knew the answer.

Education was not meant to follow the conveyor belt conformity of the factory. Long ago, it should have taken another course. This one would have led to a slow process, where craftsmen turned out their own unique product. When the flaw was discovered, the brakes went on. The factory ground to a halt. New

management took over.

You are here, at the NEW FACTORY; York University. It's an odd combination of relics of the past and hopes of the future. Yet it is a start.

You still attend three hundred seat lecture halls, and sit on the floor if you're two minutes late. There's still enough red tape to wrap every Christmas present in Canada. But every once in a while, you can sit with a prof and ten or twelve other humans and shoot the breeze, even ask questions. And, you must admit, that's nice, very nice.

It costs more, much more, to have this kind of craftsmanship. The profits are down a bit at the factory this year. But I think both the craftsman and the student are enjoying it much, much more.