

Gone The Glory That Was Glendon

Glendon College: ADVOCATE OF ACTIVISM by Glen S. Williams

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'Glendon College is different!' Anyone who spends more than half an hour on our campus is compelled to make this observation.

This difference is deeper than the mere fact that Glendon is geographically removed seventeen miles from the main York Campus of our University. It is also deeper than Glendon's new curriculum. The real difference can be found in Glendon's atmosphere.

Two weeks ago a Toronto newspaperman took a superficial look at Glendon and labelled it 'the country club'. To be sure, we have one of the most beautiful campuses in North America and on the surface everything looks relaxed and calm.

Underneath, however, Glendon pulses with the excitement of discovery. It's electric atmosphere can be felt in the coffee shops, the newspaper office, in the seminar rooms, and in the student council. Not only the students are affected--many of the professors have caught the spirit.

It seems strange that the Glendon campus, being the oldest, should be the place where the students feel that they are the real pioneers. The pioneer spirit has always been an integral part of Glendon and if that spirit should die, so would the college.

This campus housed the first York University students who studied under Murray Ross' general education programme back in the early sixties. It was here, in those early years, that the tone of the University was set. It was here, also, that the first of York's libraries, classrooms, residences, and fieldhouses were opened.

By 1965 Glendon had settled down. Construction has slowed to a virtual halt as only the Women's Residence remained to be built. Course structures had become relatively stable and student organizations and activities had taken on the prestige of what was called 'instant tradition'. The 'new campus' was still a bleak mud-hole occupied by only 300 freshmen.

Hints of the change were in the wind, however. The new Principal-Designate of Glendon College, Escott Reid, had taken up residence in Glendon Hall. Little was known of him at first, except that he was a former diplomat. Early in 1966 he gave an outstanding speech to Glendon students about the nature of the College that was to be opened that fall.

Some parts of this speech did not seem to indicate any drastic changes in what was then the Glendon Campus. As had been originally planned the college would be small, residential and liberal arts.

Mr. Reid, however, stressed that the College would be 'oriented towards the development of an interest in and an understanding of public affairs' and would 'place a special emphasis on the acquisition of skill in the use and appreciation of the English and French languages'. To accomplish these twin goals a new curriculum leading to a special Glendon College degree was to be offered to next years Freshmen.

In spite of these warnings of 'changes to come' few of Glendon's senior Arts and Science students were prepared for the onslaught of the more than 350 first year guinea pigs who were enrolled in the new Glendon College curriculum.

At first they caused some embarrassment to the Arts students who had been the builders of Glendon. Many insisted on referring to it as 'their College' and in treating the Arts students as second class citizens. Fortunately, this phase quickly passed and the freshmen settled down to absorbing all they could of Glendon's 'culture'.

Last year, then, marked a new beginning for York's oldest campus. With this renaissance came a phenomena which made some squirm uncomfortably and others rejoice--the phenomena of popular student activism.

In preceding years, some attempts had been made along these lines with varying degrees of success. One noticeable portent of things to come was the 1965 march on Queen's Park by a number of Glendon students. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the fee structure of universities by protesting for 'universal accessibility'.

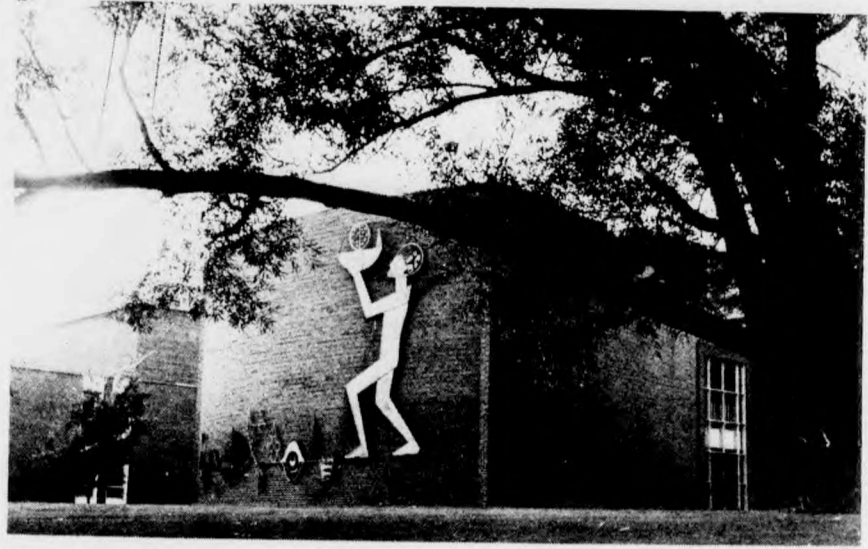
Last year, the first 'incident' occurred during the official opening of Glendon College in late September by Prime Minister Pearson and Education Minister William Davis. They were met by no less than two groups of demonstrators--one protesting the injustices of the Student Award Plan and the other the war in Vietnam. Those who frowned on these activities as 'irresponsible' were to find that this was only the beginning.

The real catalyst of student involvement at Glendon was the ACSA debate. In future years this will be remembered as the point at which Glendon students, en masse, became actively interested in the future of their College.

This debate was called in early January of 1967 by the Student Council to discuss student protests about York president Dr. Murray Ross' Advisory Committee on Student Affairs.

The Council was displeased with both representation on the committee (only 5 of 18 members) and with the fact that committee decisions were kept secret. They pressed for 50% representation.

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Glendon College: The Whole Man is not the whole story.

The central objectives of Glendon College were summarized by the Principal of the College, Mr. Escott Reid, in his address to the Senate of York University in September, 1965: "My idea of Glendon College is that it would be a small, residential, undergraduate, co-educational liberal arts college of high academic standards where there would be a special emphasis on public affairs and on the acquisition of skill in the use and appreciation of the English and French languages".

The 1967-68 term marks the second year since Glendon's swing to a new curriculum. As more and more senior students transfer from Glendon College campus to York Campus and the University proper, Glendon, the place where it all started, is becoming the place

Where The Action Was

by Stan Bunston

Glendon's walls are falling down.

What may appear as a mere change in nomenclature from 'Glendon Campus' to 'Glendon College' signals a marked change in the status of Glendon in York's multi-college system.

As a result, Glendon College is in for a rough ride...at the moment, downhill. She has lost her organizational advantage over muddy York Campus. The mud is drying and the action has shifted from Bayview and Lawrence to Keele and Steeles.

York has succeeded in luring

students from Glendon because of its more modern buildings and learning facilities, and, most important, York Campus was conceived in the beginning as the actual University. Glendon was never expected to house the number of faculties that a good university must provide.

But while York campus attracts the senior students, Glendon College must bear the chaos of a fledgling curriculum. Where, then, can Glendon make a place in York's college system.

Glendon, despite its separate campus, is restricted in its enrolment to under 1000 students, even less than a college on York Campus which will ideally have 1000 students per college.

Glendon, therefore, will never be able to compete in matters of mere magnitude; rather, her growth must be in depth and here Glendon needs time.

More than the bigness and betterness of the new campus, Glendon should value tradition. Tradition, however, must not be confused with conservatism, for Glendon has the potential to be a major nerve centre--perhaps a raw nerve--not only of the York college system but of Canadian intellectual life. There has always existed a healthy tension between Principal Escott Reid's intentions and Glendon student action. Such conflict has stimulated Glendon's own style of growth and will continue to do so in the future.

Glendon already has many of its own traditions firmly established. As the first real 'home' of the University, Glendon saw the beginning of such university-wide traditions as Orientation Week, and Reading Week. The first student newspaper was published at Glendon. The birth of York student activism took place at Glendon.

And now Glendon is pioneering in areas new to the university curriculum and unique among liberal arts colleges in North America.

Rather than relegating Glendon to a second level status, the college system of York University will allow Glendon to find its own direction of growth in depth, within the breadth of scope in intellectual and research facilities that the large university provides.



Frost Library, Glendon College Campus, Bayview at Lawrence Avenue.