

YORK - NEVER, NEVERLAND

The constant bickering between York's university and college governments as opposed to the attempts at social change at other universities points to a critical failure at this campus.

After four years, this campus still lacks any college that has matured to a position of importance for this academic community or for the society outside the university.

Not one of the colleges here has spawned and fostered ideas in the minds of its students that will be of any consequence to York or the world.

Not one of the colleges here has been led by a vigorous, concerned council into actions away from the mickey-mouse fields of politics, into demands for change of both what is here and outside.

Not one of the college councils here has ever successfully attempted to educate, to involve, and activate its 1000 members into the pressing matters that are agitating students elsewhere.

Never has there been a Quebec Year Eight, or an international Forum on Prejudice, or a year's concentration on the injustices besetting the Canadian Indian.

No college here has utilized graduate students for their experience and ideas, as re-

source people on a council, or as aids in raising the college 1000 to a level where they are no longer disinterested in "doing", and in following a vigorous leadership.

No college here has presented a brief to the board of governors of the senate requesting, as educated members of an academic society, that their suggestion for abolition of tuition for all African students at York be considered.

No college here has ever adopted as a year's policy the campaign to get it across to the half million Toronto secondary school students that university is a time for challenge, not for placid acceptance of recited facts. Never has it been said this challenge must be taken up by the incoming students, where we have failed.

No college has ever adopted a year's policy for anything.

And no longer can the blame for such a failure lie only on the heads of the college councils. Many of the college councils obviously lack sufficient people of maturity and strength to see out of the present situation.

The college masters lie at fault as well. These men no longer can excuse the intellectual wasteland they preside over with the

comment 'wait until we get a few older, senior students.'

Third and fourth year students are here now, in all four colleges, but have certainly not been brought up in a challenging college atmosphere.

The college masters have left children to continue to play children's games, when the childhood of Founders, Vanier and Winters is past.

The college masters have done little, visibly, to create a college that is a credit in any special way to this university.

The college masters seem to have no pride, or are all equally unconcerned, since all colleges are equally discouraging.

If the college system is to ever foster truly concerned, intelligent students, changes must come, now.

If a single York undergraduate is ever to be more than just the statistic he is, belonging to one of four jellied colleges, action and insight must come, now.

It is time for college members, not just councillors, and college masters to start growing up.

Each new root and promise of challenge is dying within a year of its inception, at this vegetable of a university.

Campus insecurity

Last Friday night, York's security cops again showed why they are and deserve to be the laughing stock on campus.

At least four of these men were stationed (we hesitate to say "on duty") at the arena while a dance was in progress.

This was no run of the mill dance, but one in which at least \$2,000 was spent on the entertainment. The cops should have done their part in assuring that this evening would run smoothly.

Nevertheless, the cops functioned inefficiently:

o Not only were they negligent in guarding all exits so that numerous students entered the dance without paying;

o Not only did they charge a parking fee to those without stickers on their cars so that

many who had already paid earlier in the day had to pay again in order to enter a parking lot with no lighting;

o Not only did the cops fail to perform adequately concerning the preceding matters, but they showed themselves truly inept by allowing at least 20 childish idiots into the dance free and by allowing this crowd purporting to be a band to disrupt the proceedings by marching to the front of the arena while noisily playing their instruments. One officer waved to them jauntily as they marched in past him.

These men ludicrously called security officers perform no positive function at this school and this latest set of incidents points out that the rent-a-cops should be disposed of.

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Sir:

The proximity of York University to Pioneer Village on the Black Creek suggests the feasibility of merging the two once York University 'self-destructs.'

It is of course inevitable that York will self-destruct leaving only the magnificent examples of the architecture of the second half of the sixth decade of the twentieth century on the wind-swept plains of central York County. To those cynics who might suggest that York University has all along only been buildings I would draw to their attention the existence of decadent student culture, a thriving ad-

ministrative structure, and a football team.

In fact, York University may be the first example of an ideology being destroyed by the breakdown of a cybernetic hierarchy. The latter is the University and the former a compendium of the three elements above.

The self-destruction is made inevitable by the violation of a law which Talcott Parsons states as follows: "Systems high in information but low in energy control systems low in information but high in energy." Lack of coordination between information and energy within the university structure doom it to an electronic breakdown and self-destruction. Any energy stored within the university is dissipated when any attempt is made to transfer it between buildings. Most of the information stored in the university is so ideological as to render it superfluous but any which is valid cannot be transmitted due to the lack of requisite energy. (A recent example of this on a low level was the failure to communicate the change in class times from fifteen minutes after the hour to the hour. Time lag in the conveyance of information is symptomatic of total breakdown.)

To change the mode of analysis from cybernetics to history there is a striking similarity between the downfall of Nazi Germany and the imminent disappearance of the University. Both concentrated (pardon the use of the past tense in relation to the university) on the production of artificial or ersatz materials. The German examples should be familiar; in the university they include such sundry and diverse items as buildings, grass, trees, food, courses, and of course the paramount creation —

students. Both had almost their entire populations fooled until it was too late.

An example of this superb deception is the recent formation of a Presidential committee to study the status of Glendon College. Yes folks out there in TV land, York Campus is a roaring success, and the failure of Glendon in this new light must be examined. Perhaps the true scholars will awaken and start a great trek back to Glendon. I understand they run Volkswagen busses down there.

Who ultimately is to blame? Clearly it must be the great white father, Murray Ross. At the same time he is only a pawn in the grip of a great ideological dream which sees the university as including research, teaching, and community service. In historical terms this is the triumph of mass society and in cybernetic terms the divorcing of information from energy. Any further explanation would be redundant.

What will be the final result? After the self-destruction the grounds of the university will be merged with Pioneer Village. The body of Murray Ross will be enshrined in a glass case a la Jeremy Bentham in front of the Humanities Building and the fate of the university will remain mysterious.

Guides will point out the magnificent structure of the Humanities Building and claim that it was built by descendants of the ancient Romans who constructed the great aqueducts and the Coliseum. (And PLEASE, guided tours only through the Behavioral Science Building.)

A university for the masses? Ho hum. What a drag.

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