

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Amchitka — rally around the principles

It's rather difficult to explain why U.S. president Richard Nixon wants the Atomic blast tomorrow. Perhaps with the growing international protest, he feels this will bring Americans closer together. . .

Or is it because he really wants to open up the North West Territories? Or does he simply want to remove the debate about the Alaskan oil pipeline by removing Alaska. Then again, the U.S. never was very happy about losing part of Vancouver Island when the 49th parallel was conveniently lowered ... and now he wants to simply remove the island in one big tidal wave while Wacky Bennett is still laughing. . .

But seriously, there must be a reason why Nixon wants that blast to go off. Of course, we know it's in the U.S. national interest to perfect the Anti Ballistic Minuteman Missile System. Once completed, scientists tell us it'll be quite obsolete, and the military industrial complex can start a whole new cycle.

But York University decided to act. From the fateful slumber that grips the stagnant mind, students realize the need to move, to demonstrate their anger at a senseless experiment in war and against ecology.

The only problem with the Amchitka demonstrations, is that students continue to rally themselves around issues rather than principles. The problem of Amchitka lies with American imperialism and its pompous attitudes towards all world peoples. The problem of Amchitka lies with a competitive form of society known as capitalism where imperialist nations become larger and larger in power while others become smaller. The American vortex is practically inescapable and until students and Canadians as a group begin to erect real safeguards against American influences, then all the Amchitka demonstrations are useless exercises in latent nationalism which will get Canadians nowhere.



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Sandbox politicians invade senate

The student caucus had to ask poppa senate to act as mediator in their dispute last Thursday. It all began when Peter McGoey presented the recommendations for certain student senators to sit on the various senate committees.

This was a normal enough procedure. But this time there was a surprise finale. Three student senators stood up to voice their discontent with the selection, saying all the student senators were not in agreement, and that anyway, the first come first serve basis had always been the accepted way for choosing the committee members.

McGoey took the floor to explain that 12 of the 15 student senators, a safe and democratic majority, had ratified the recommendations.

Who knows what blood might have been spilled had not Howard Adelman, co-chairman of the Committee on the Organization and Structure of the Senate and the University intervened to say that as far as the committee was concerned, anyone who wanted to work on it might do so.

Senate chairman John Yolton also pointed out general senate policy stating that any senator can attend meetings, though he or she may not vote but may

voice their opinions. Atkinson dean Harry Crowe then sanely commented that it seemed the recommendations had been made by a majority of the student caucus, and that senate should respect that majority decision. The recommendations were accepted.

So how come the childish outburst on the floor of the senate, a tactical boo-boo if there ever was one?

It's easy enough to see why if you trace the story's beginning. And it's the same old bedtime story all over again — Council of the York Student Federation versus the college councils.

Bill Farr, secretary of the university, told the student senators to get together and make their decision as to which senators would serve on each committee. It seems that CYSF took upon itself the role of guiding light and the decision to hold the election. Seeing as the senators are college appointed, there are some who do not align themselves with CYSF, and above all, not with CYSF president Mike Fletcher, who, they argue cannot declare himself The Student Voice, given that he is not even a student.

This was the complaint voiced by some inside observers, and one dissenter commented that he was annoyed by the way the election was held.

CYSF handled the whole affair with their usual bungled efficiency. One student senator, unable to attend the all important vote meeting, asked that his name be considered nonetheless. CYSF got so wrapped up in arguing, that the vote was done and through and no one even realized the senator's name hadn't been included. One student senator is only sour griping, accuses CYSF. He was present at the vote meeting and lost fair and square.

The student senators, in refusing to present a united stand — through petty college politics are not serving students but their college councils who appoint them. Mike Mouritsen was elected faculty of arts council chairman — through united student action.

We suggest two definite lines of action: 1) that senators be elected from the student body at large, not appointed by college council politicians 2) that those now elected not take Bill Farr — an administration paid and loyal servant — as a service head for student caucus meetings, but instead vastly improve their own cooperation.

One thing remains clear the sandbox politicians who break student unity had better stop flinging the stuff about. The grit gets in everyone's eyes.