

For York's sake

Gentlemen of the Student Councils of York:

We ask that you accept the plan proposed to you in Mr. John Adams' letter (on this page), not because it is the best of all possible plans, but because it is a plan which will succeed, with a helping hand and a little good faith.

The important thing in this case is the end result--namely an SRC and how quickly it can be achieved. This plan proposes a route to this end.

We ask you not to procrastinate in an attempt to seek other means. We ask you, for the sake of the university, to give this plan a chance and not kill it before it can bear fruit.

who will go home?

For two years now we have heard the cry that York University needs a truly representative student government, but little has come of such pleas.

In the past week there have been two meetings of the college councils and interested students toward establishing such a student government. Some members of the three college councils, Atkinson, and the Graduate Council, came up with what appears to be a feasible plan for the development and ratification of such a government.

But the question now rises--will the various council members let the plan work? For two years York has suffered from the lack of a university-wide government, and various attempts to solve the problem have been shot down by councils.

For two years now someone has decided that if they cannot have things their way, they will take their ball and go home.

President Ross has said: I would like to see the students solve this problem themselves.

Dr. Fowle has said: I would like to see the students solve this problem themselves.

Progress has been made.
We are waiting to see who takes his ball and goes home this time.

A sickness unto death

Okay ACSA--

You locked us out.

You voted 9-7 on Tuesday to keep your meetings closed to the press.

Drop dead, ACSA. You are no longer a useful part of York. You are a disgustingly sick member of this community and should be kept locked in the dungeons.

You turned your back on the ideal known as democracy--turned your back and spat on the ideal of the community of scholars.

You apparently believe students have no right to know the advice their representatives are giving to the president of this University; that they have no right to know if their representatives are completely asinine (which seems to be the case) or if they are mature, responsible citizens of York.

Yes ACSA, it is true that the average student is not as responsible as he might be, but your conduct only fosters this deficiency. Your action implies students belong in a herd of unruly animals with no right to be consulted or informed.

President Ross can no longer seek advice from a body supposedly composed of representatives from the students because such a body does not exist.

The traitors who dare to remain on ACSA will cut themselves off from any membership with us, the students of York. They mistakenly think they belong to an elite group that does not have to answer to or communicate with us, the commoners.

For the faculty and administration who voted to keep the committee closed, we can only express our contempt.

Back, ever back we plunge into the Dark Ages.

float the logo?...richard and ross deep in discussion...claire clears out...frances flurries in but where, as usual, is fred?...drop the banner?...anita's sorry, rich...dave wants to leave...ward of the week to errand boy bob...lower the flag?...a harried susie...bye, phyl...print, clark, print.

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Dear Councillors,

A meeting to discuss the need for a University of campuswide student government was convened by Excalibur Editor-in-Chief, Fred Nix, October 19. Members of Glendon, Founders, Vanier and Winters Councils attended.

The meeting chose me to chair a constitutional conference.

Ken Johnston was asked to prepare a draft by Tuesday October 24, for circulation to all councils.

Friday October 20, Dr. Fowle, Master of Vanier, hosted a dinner to which he invited two members from each council, including Atkinson, the Graduate Student Association and the Graduate Business Council.

The students attending reached the following conclusions: (a) Ken Johnston and Paul Stott should proceed with the draft to include the graduate and part-time student associations. It is to be ready Tuesday, October 24.

(b) All York councils are to delegate one representative to act in a constitution committee, which shall review the draft and determine a procedure to ratify it. This committee is to meet several times to permit consultation with all the councils. The committee is to be composed of myself, as chairman, Ken Johnston, Paul Stott and the council representatives.

(c) All deadlines for the committee's work should be Monday, November 13, so that on that day, the ratification procedure might begin.

Therefore, I request selection of one representative for the constitution committee. The first meeting shall be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday October 28 in Vanier College committee Room.

I would ask that this representative be able to attend this crucial meeting, be willing to put much time and effort into the committee's labours, and have the authority to determine a ratification procedure.

Thanking you for your co-operation,

Sincerely,
John Adams
Vanier II

letters to us

WAR STINKS

Dear Sir:

Did you march on Saturday?

Why not? I didn't either, and to those who did, here are my reasons.

One never hears anymore from those who don't say 'End the war in Vietnam.' It's anti-social. But viewing the response to our aggressive York pamphleteers, I'm sure disagreement does exist. The lack of response certainly isn't all apathy.

If I were unquestionably sure that the right thing to do is to stop the bombing and get out, I would have marched. Idealistically, I agree; get out. War stinks, any war. And this is a vicious, dirty war.

But the hang-up is not in the idealism but in the political reality. If the U.S. pulled out, there is no question that the North would soon control all of Vietnam, and maybe more. So what, you say? Self-determination must be permitted.

Self-determination is not a valid argument, however. The South Vietnamese would not be determining anything. They, and that means the rural masses, cannot choose between communism and democracy any more than they can choose between Cadillacs and Lincoln Continentals. What they can choose between is peace and war. Who gives them peace they don't care.

The valid argument to consider in viewing the political reality of Vietnam is Red China. North Vietnam is definitely one of her arms. The Americans have driven the North right into those ever-lovin' red arms. I, for one, am sufficiently impressed by the irresponsibility of Communist China to feel little inclination towards permitting her to extend her influence one inch. She has extended it to North Vietnam. That is enough.

I simply don't trust the Communist Chinese to keep the world in one piece. They scare me and I don't think I am a fanatical anti-commie rightist, if only because I trust the USSR as much or more than the U.S.

But is this side of the question, the political reality of Red China enough to out-weigh the idealistic side, the horrors of the war? I am not sure. I think these conflicting considerations, lives and politics (which ultimately means lives), must be the

way in which Mr. Johnson and Mr. MacNamara see the situation. I'm sure they are not blind to the marchers and their convictions. For fulfilling the role of decision-makers, which is their duty, they must have become the most tortured men on earth.

I didn't march, not because I disagreed, but because I couldn't decide. I'm thankful I don't have to decide, but as a believer in existential activism, I wish I could.

Jeff Solway
(Vanier II)

CUS GOES TOO FAR

Dear Sir:

What right has the Canadian Union of Students to represent the students of York University?

In 1964, in a special meeting at York, the original aim and objective of CUS was reaffirmed to be 'the advancement of education through the promotion of co-operation and understanding in the student community.'

Since then CUS has lost sight of this objective and it has become involved in matters not connected with its original objectives, such as matters of foreign policy, racial strife, Vietnam, China, and other popular causes.

Our representatives have not been given a mandate to support such non-student issues. The CUS executive thus passes resolutions without any knowledge of student convictions or opinions.

The very reason for the existence of CUS should be questioned. Many member universities have withdrawn because the rights of the individual student have been violated. CUS has gone one step too far in formulating policy in matters so divorced from student affairs on behalf of the students of Canada.

Students should have the right to decide whether or not they wish to join CUS. Students, who feel their rights as individual students are being violated, should speak up and implement changes through the student government.

Richard Argals,
(Winters I).