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# Letters

## An open letter to Bob Colson

(ed. note — Robert Colson wrote a front page article in Monday's edition of the Vanier College newspaper Vandoo entitled "On CYSF, sex, and ten dollars".)

Dear Bob,  
Thanks for your groovy letter (more like a chapter from Mel Lubek's diary) telling Vandoo (all three readers) about your failure to understand CYSF (that's the short-form name for the university-wide student government.)

You mentioned something about lack of communication — yes, I think that is your main problem. Considering yourself to be "a reasonably well-informed freshman" is quite a mouthful, but I won't point out your errors there. However you note you ran for the college council earlier and were unsuccessful. Wouldn't it help if you pointed out you came dead last (even after Mel Lubek, who also lost). This might help us know who you are and what qualifies you to comment on CYSF.

You mention you are a staffer on Vandoo. (Is that an admission of shame, guilt, or just bias?)

You also excite us with the news that you're active on campus five, six or even seven days a week (What's the problem? Lost?) in a relatively high number of campus activities. A few lines later you state you have never come in contact with CYSF except at orientation where CYSF gave you a handbook you obviously need badly. This question arises: you claim you are highly active in campus activities, yet never encounter CYSF. CYSF supports at least 20 on-campus activities — a very wide range. With such involvement by CYSF, and such involvement (so you say) by you, and yet never do you meet — tell us — just what activities do you take part in?

Enough about your sex hang-ups. you you don't even know how to vote. Shame, shame. You'll get over your learning disabilities some day.

Your next point is something about an over-sexed junk pile. (Who? You?) You mention that you had hours of fun and difficulty trying to figure out what to do with the questionnaire CYSF sent you, as part of an effort to see what additional services can be offered to students. (After all, some students are interested in sex and stuff, you know) (You do know, don't you?) Any way, I'd love to tell you what to do with the questionnaire and the big brown envelope, but I'd hate to get you interested in something new. Despite that fact that you couldn't figure out who to mail back the questionnaire to, a heck of a lot of students have been able to read and think enough to send in their questionnaires. (Maybe your problem is that you can't read? Oh well, once a freshman, always a freshman.)

You claim to have phoned CYSF to find out about the questionnaire, and got no help from them. (Did you ask them in English or French? or just pig Latin?) You also managed to screw up Cool Hand Luke's statement about people like you. Luke did not say "what we have here is a failure to relate", his statement was "What we have here is a failure to communicate." Oh well, if you missed the word, I guess you've also missed the meaning. Keep trying. You also talk about misrepresentation, and absent delegates from Vanier council meetings, and ESP as the answer. (See Mel Lubek for the revised manual on tactics of misrepresentation, or back issues of Vandoo.)

Regarding absence from council meetings — I don't blame CYSF delegates from staying away from Vanier council — it's impossible to carry on an intelligent conversation with the few sensible Vanier councillors without getting

slandered in the omnipresent Vandoo. But for your info, CYSF delegates have been there more often than you state — more often than you, I guess. You suggest CYSF members are fortune tellers in training. Maybe so — if true, they may someday be able to figure out what Vanier people like you are trying to say. (Is it true you are a fascist in training?)

Anyway, keep up the good work. I hear the third Reich is returning, and they have an opening in the Ministry of Propaganda. If not, you might make it as garbage collector.

Love from the underground,  
Morley K. Robertson

## A York old boy raps on U.B.C.

Sir:

Like Toronto, Vancouver has two universities and like Toronto one is a huge urban and older institution while the other is a new, suburban instant university.

The biggest difference immediately noticeable between the two pairs of schools has to be their physical surroundings. The University of British Columbia is situated on a plot of endowed land and really makes up the western most section of the residential part of Vancouver. It is bounded on two sides by the Pacific and to the north, (about five miles across the bay) are snowcapped mountains for as far as the eye can see. About 20,000 day students attend U.B.C. which is made up, like U of T of a mixture of old and new buildings. The older buildings with the exception of a beautifully designed student union building, are by far the most attractive.

Unlike U of T however, hundreds of classes at U.B.C. are scheduled in made-over second world war barracks, because the Bennett Social Credit government (which has been in power since 1952) considers education such a low priority that U.B.C. still hasn't pulled itself out of the overcrowding mess it was in during the early fifties.

Because of the size of the school and the scarcity of profs and space, almost all undergrad courses at U.B.C. are taught in lectures. The only real exception to this rule is a program called Arts-1 which is a first-year general arts program for 300 students. Arts-1 is divided into three sections each of which centers around a theme: freedom and authority; man and his environment; consciousness in society.

I visited the section on freedom and authority at one of their large lectures and the profs were one philosopher, one historian, one history prof and two others.

I talked to an Arts-1 student, Stanley Rosen, and asked him for his reactions to the program.

"Both the profs and students consider the purpose of Arts-1 to be giving people a 'liberal' education. Most of the students in the course could be termed alienated — they're not really goal oriented. They know they're interested in the arts, but not sure exactly what area or even why."

The section on freedom and authority sounds like a combination of York's "man in search" and "politics, economics and society." On the course were Euripides, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mills, Marx — the whole trip.

The session I attended was just like a typical York lecture in humanities or social science — boring and very very cosmic. So cosmic that most of the kids I talked to either didn't understand what had been discussed or didn't care.

Next time I'll write something about Simon Fraser who knows? Maybe that'll be a little happier. Till then, stay happy and keep smiling.

David Chud

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