

EXCALIBUR

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

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A cruel daycare report, Becker & Co.

Humans have a limit they reach when it comes to ineptitude. Bureaucracy has limit before people get fed-up.

When you combine the worst of both, then you have a deadly combination. And York appears to have found both in student services. We refer, of course, to the recent report on daycare issued by director John Becker, his assistant Stuart Keeley, campus planning director Doug Anderson.

The task force consisted of three administrators; — no women (they generally know a little more about preschool children), no daycare personnel (they know what sort of facilities are needed), or faculty (they could talk about study resources to be found in a daycare centre). When the report was issued it was suppressed with Becker and Small refusing to give Excalibur a copy.

But then, it's really no wonder. The task force simply wasn't one. It was a group of administrators wondering about what they'd like to play with and not thinking about what children needed.

President David Slater told vice-president Bill Small to set up a task force which would report to the senate's academic planning sub-committee chaired by Small himself. This would help set the academic planning committee's spending priorities which would be reported to the president. It was a brutal form of bureaucratic masturbation with an unwilling victim, the daycare centre.

They found no alternatives but opted instead for the quickest way out. For two months, they engaged in diplomatic double-talk. They agreed that there was a demand for daycare but wondered if there was a need for a York-run centre.

The Metro-York-run centre — as they "sort of" proposed — would be financed by both parties but run by Metro. Like any cog in Metro's wheel, the centre would soon be institutionalized into a sterile building with stringent guidelines on its management.

The York co-operative of parents — as is now operating on small facilities —



"So what do the women know that 3 good administrators don't?"

would combine active parent involvement and decision-making with real community commitment.

That is the choice that York faces. The full report is on Page 7 with a rebuttal by

news editor Marilyn Smith and individuals concerned with the centre.

The report's ridiculous alternative fits the ridiculous task force that made it up. York students, faculty and staff need a

York parent-run centre free from Metro's and York's bureaucracies who seem hell-bent on building faceless centres and producing quickie memorandums.

Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building, York University, Downsview, Ontario. Excalibur reserves the right to edit all letters more than 500 words long. Unsigned letters are the responsibility of the editors. All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

Congratulations for Termpaper Service

Congratulations. Mr. Ron Connort has found, without a doubt, the way to change the slightly sclerotic system of exams in Canadian universities, at least for that most important group of students, those from affluent families.

I have only one suggestion for American Ward Warren's totally automated education system: the next step in his "next industrial revolution" should be to replace the entire system with a simple questionnaire for each student, having only one question — about the income bracket of the parents. A fully computerized office would then send the academic degree corresponding to the given income bracket.

More complicated scales are not necessary. Other variables such as color of skin, political and religious affiliation, correlate strongly with income and others like IQ and ability are irrelevant anyway. The saving of taxpayers'

money would be tremendous.

Not only has Connort found a way to change the exam system, but he has also found a more effective way to Americanize Canadian universities, a less complicated way than that of importing American professors. Some of these professors are less American than successful Canadian businessmen. The substantial difference between rates paid to writers and rates charged to students indicates that Connort is a good businessman.

Miroslav Disman,
Sociology.

What is the purpose of Nat. Sci. here?

Who finances the York Nat. Sci. Dept? — U.S. military, U.S. corporations, the Canadian military and the tax money of the Canadian people and our tuition fees. What is the citizenship breakdown in the York Nat.

Sci. faculty? Heavily non-Canadian.

Many students are protesting the compulsory nature of Nat. Sci. courses. It is a good idea in general for arts students to know something about science and science students something about arts, because in fact, all these disciplines are related. But, as it stands now, many of these courses serve U.S. imperialism. Here's how:

1. Most courses profess to be purely scientific and that's why most professors refuse to put social and political questions on the courses. But is military research "purely scientific"? No, it is evident that military research is used for political purposes. Is it "purely scientific" to invite government spokesmen to speak to our classes? No, the government is pure politics — the politics of the sell-out Liberal government.

2. In some ecology courses, the professors teach us that pollution is caused by individuals, particularly "ignorant housewives" who use phosphates, etc. Not a word is spoken about the giant U.S. cor-

porations who are the real polluters of the great lakes, for example and who are carving up our Northland, raping our forests, creating slag heaps which in some cases are higher than the Laurentians.

3. It's about time we studied scientific questions from the point of view of the Canadian people! We are tired of hearing apologies from scientists for the U.S. chemical industries and the Trudeau apologists for Washington!

In short, it's about time we studied the truth!

We demand: 1. that the York Nat. Sci. Dept. refuse to accept any military research grants;

2. that professors who prefer to do research for the imperialist corporations and the military should get off the campus;

3. that the 85 percent quota for Canadian professors be instituted in the department.

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Tom Clement,
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