

The College Systems : ending alienation or castrating students?

Holmes on the Student Eunuch

by Fred Holmes

Let us paraphrase a recent Excalibur article, and con-sider the student as 'eunuch'.

After a public and high school history of lining up and having to ask permission to get a drink, a university student may bask in the belief that he has found his political utopia.

But I contend there are at least two strong administrative machines operating to ensure that the student will continue to be politically isolated and morally en-

caged. The first is this farce called 'the college system'. It is nothing more than an

incredibly devious device to break down student voice into units, while the administration remains unified, growing more monolithic and centralized each day.

Each student has classes in many colleges; eats in undifferentiated dining halls; and has friends throughout each complex.

Yet in what counts most, his political base, the admin-istration HAS made sharp unitary (college) distin-ctions. Either the Depart-ment of Student Services and the other administrators that control us must segment, or we must unite. Since the former is not likely to occur, the cruel hoax of political alignment with paper colleges must end.

The second castrating ag-ent is the enforcement of Ontario's moral status quo by it must be taken.

dons who stand in the place of Dick and Jane's parents while they are off at school.

These administrative nurse maids are aided by the physical design of the residence buildings, which in-cludes a central porter's turret (in Founders only the women are saved), and fire doors that act as moral burglar alarms. The unsuspecting students never had a chance.

But here are some suggestions. Why not fire Linda Newmarch, the senior women's don in Founder's, and her male counterpart? Why not run residences like any other apartments?

Why not arrange colleges as to temperament?

Measures like these, or indeed any real changes, can only be effective if students have a powerful, broad and centralized political base.

Disband the college councils or call them the dance committees that they are, actively support (by demonstrations if necessary) a university-wide student political association, an activist York Student Council.

We must realize that The Whole Man is a myth while administrators make all the important decisions for us. We gave away our self-determination and responsibility even before we got it. For us to be whole, it must be won back.

But power is never given;

Students Say by Sam Pinkas

The following is an article written by President Murray G. Ross for Excalibur. In it, he explains the rationale behind the college system at York.

The college system on York campus is one of the unique features of York University which is being watched and studied with care by universities all over the



Dr. Fowle signs the Vanier Constitution as council Chairman Larry Rapoport looks on.

by Alan Gayda

Dr. C.D. Fowle, Master of Vanier College, feels we have be-en too concerned with the means and not the action. In an interview with Excalibur, Dr. Fowle talked about the prob-lems faced by Vanier College.

Dr. Fowle says the difficulties faced by the university government to date arise from attempts to formulate a constitution using experience drawn from other universities that have no colleges. The college system at York is novel and it is understandable that we will meet problems in incorporating it into a workable constitution.

world. The reason is that no university has yet discovered a way of combining individual student contact with mass enrolment.

President Ross on The System

York's idea is a simple one which appears to many as a most promising solution to the inevitable problems of the multiversity. The plan is to provide a college for each 1,000 undergraduates which would become the centre for student activities on the campus and in which students would have opportunities to meet each other and faculty members around topics of interest and importance.

The University has made a considerable investment in the college system, not only in terms of buildings but also in terms of operating budgets. Whether the colleges will succeed cannot yet be

ascertained. There are some encouraging signs, but it is clear that buildings and facilities will not make a College. It is only the students, the Masters and the Fellows that can make the colleges viable. It is only they who can develop college traditions, attitudes, and programs.

It is too early to say if the colleges will work, but it is not too early to predict that the colleges will succeed only if each year there is an increasing number of stu-dents who identify with, and contribute to, the life of their college.

Most students want such identification; it remains for some group in each college to find the formula for involving their fellow students in significant college programs.

Master Fowle on Vanier

tablished a reputation that would influence the students. However, over half the fourth year students who transferred from Glendon last fall, as well as a large proportion of students from second and third year, chose Vanier over the other colleges. This may indicate a preference.

Fellows

the operation of vanier col-

bers of council mentioned to me they were finding the work of council too heavy along with their academic responsibilities.'

Apathy

College dinners in Vanier college have not been too successful. A well-publicized college council conference in mid-October drew minimal attendance. Dr. Fowle has asked if these One of the difficulties in were symptoms of apathy. He explained the reason ned to have no central at-"A Fellow has outside af- traction at our college dinfiliations, such as research ners and to make them regular and open to all. College tions to the university, members were either unavterested in that sort of thing." 'It is oversimplifying the failure of the college conferthe college,' says Dr. Fowle. ence 'apathy'. Transporta-'Many Fellows are pres-tion problems to York means ently contributing to Vanier that students spend less time in college activities. Residence students, of course, program as well as the added are active but that does not solve the problem for the rest of the college. 'One definite attempt to stimulate interest in the college is the division of the college into 'houses' for athletic purposes."

ge whether Vanier has es-

Question: Are you satisfied with the college system at York as it is?

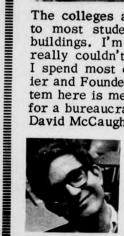


This is a system? It's too vague and undemanding of the individual student to be a solid system. I want the colleges ultimately supreme, not YSC, for more college identity. Di Gillespie F II

The colleges are quite irrelevant to most students. They are just buildings. I'm in Winters and I really couldn't care less about it. I spend most of my time in Vanier and Founders. The college system here is merely a feeble excuse for a bureaucratic machine. David McCaughna WI



ARTICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER OWNER



Damn right I am, chickee. It gives this place some variety and spirit and other goodies. I say keep the system. Five years from now the college system will make this crummy U great! Richard Levine F III

Finances

Dr. Fowle does not feel it is too expensive to operate separate colleges. Though it may require

more money to maintain individual colleges, the provincial government judges by the return it gets from its funds.

If the return is the successful workingout of a new idea, then the government will continue to provide the funds. So it is important that we put every effort into making the College system a success.'

Vanier reputation

'It's a little early to jud-

lege is that the role of the for the poor response to Fellows has not yet been college dinners. 'We planclearly defined.

projects, besides his obliga-Though we have not yet ailable at the time or unin-clearly defined his role he terested in that sort of thing." would have to give up some of his outside activities to matter too much to call the accomodate his interest in

college. Professor Polka, for example, has a full time responsibility of senior tutor and Fellow of the college.'

Vanier council

Speaking of the problems faced by Vanier college 'Our outgoing college council, Dr. Fowle said The council has done much for college council has done a college finances, and apathy fine job under the circum- in Vanier is no worse than stances. Two or three mem- in the other colleges."