

Excalibur

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

We're writing this editorial by candlelight

It's a pain in the ass trying to write an editorial by candlelight.

It's Tuesday night and this is being written by candlelight because power lines feeding the Central Square got wet and exploded. Anyway, we're without lights at EXCALIBUR.

A number of things have happened, are happening and will be happening at York which deserve comment.

George Haggar

The issue seems to be closed. Unfortunately, nothing has really been resolved. We still don't know whether he was discriminated against here at York or not.

Haggar was reluctant/unable to document legally his charges. Probably the main reason why he couldn't was that the political science faculty refused to: 1) open up its records relating to Haggar to interested members of York; and 2) refused, as Haggar repeatedly requested, to appear at a public forum to openly debate the issue.

The importance of the political science faculty's refusal to do the above were crucial to not solving the Haggar issue. The documents in their files, plus the open and honest testimony of those profs involved with the case were the only way that this community could have started to work toward the truth.

Well, that didn't happen. Although people were angry last Thursday when George Haggar came and spoke about his anti-imperialist struggles, the blame does not wholly rest with him or the poli sci union people who invited him.

After all, Haggar made it quite clear that he would not be more explicit about the York case unless he could speak directly with poli-sci faculty.

The frustrated wrath of all of us who were there could better have been directed at the chickenshit poli-sci faculty who didn't have the guts to crawl out of the audience to talk face to face with Haggar.

Another dimension to the Haggar issue which never really came out at any of the meetings was that of hiring in the political science department.

In reality that should probably have been the most important issue. To this moment, how many of us know the criteria by which people are hired here, whether in poli-sci or Osgoode?

The only information we got was some vague rhetoric. We were told that York

does not discriminate religiously, racially or politically. We were told that York, in its hiring (and firing) is concerned primarily with intellectual excellence.

Groovy.

That means nothing to those not involved in the process.

To make that relevant requires that people be made aware, through open examination of specific hiring and firing incidents just how these fine-sounding guidelines are applied in real life.

That is what should have happened in the Haggar case. The opportunity was lost, partially by the students who couldn't seem to transcend the relative pettiness of the particulars of Haggar's case for their own sake, and partially by the brilliant, though obvious waffling of the faculty.

Enough.

Glendon College

If you didn't already know, Glendon's student bureaucracy, except for the social and cultural departments, has thrown in the proverbial towel.

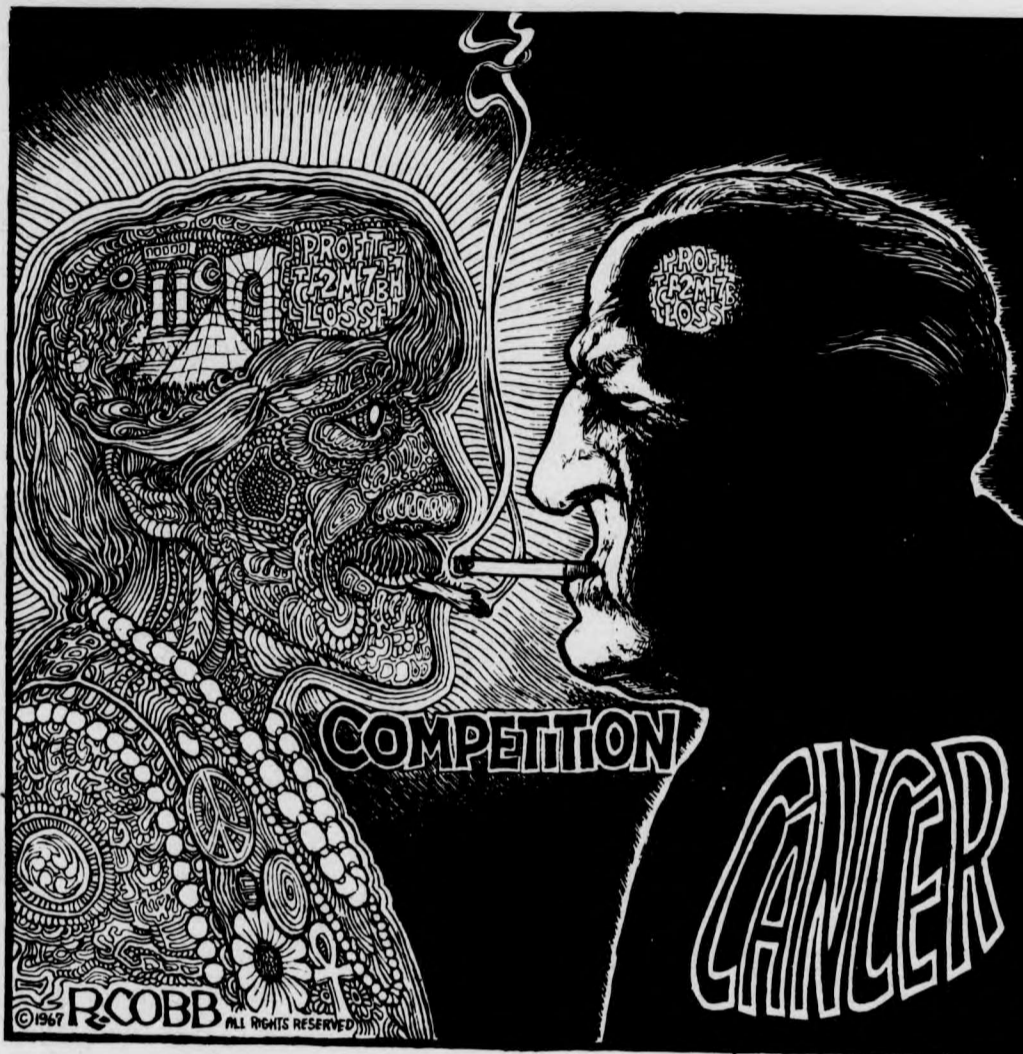
A cartoon in Glendon's paper, Pro Tem, portrayed the council as a boxer which had been knocked out by another pugilist labeled IRRELEVANCE (to the Glendon community).

That's only partially true. There should have been two other boxers in the cartoon standing triumphant over the council — FRUSTRATION (of councillors who hassled daily with meaningless bureaucracy for a student body that didn't really care if such work was done) and ELITISM (of councillors; an insidious attitude which seems to afflict 99 per cent of those who assume positions of either real or pseudo power).

The most congenial remarks on the death of the Glendon student council came from Delores Broten, interim editor of Pro Tem.

"There is no student government at this college. Council has resigned, as have the top echelons of the 'civil service' — secretary, business manager and electoral officials. We have no representation on the board of governors, and only a token voice in the senate and faculty council.

"Our lives are not disrupted — classes continue, as do Versafood and parking tickets. The real government of our daily lives is not affected, because that government is not in any way dependent on student participation in legal structures.



"This is the major flaw in student council — and this is the main flaw reflected through the structure of the ex-council. Council was acting as a company union — with compulsory membership and no real structuring power in dealing with the administration. It acted as a buffer between the administration and the students and clouded many of the real issues of government, such as university financing and not merely student finance. It was, as the lack of response to the fees referendum has shown, unrepresentative of students' real interests.

"Furthermore, it was structured as a negative delegation of responsibility — councillors were elected, not to carry out their constituents' directives, not to construct policies."

This situation will probably not change much for a week or two, until the Year of the Barricade conference is over, and people have had a bit of time to absorb and analyze what has happened.

Hopefully, the student union at Glendon will first throw roses on the grave of the accepted form of student government and then develop an analysis of their own community's needs and desires. When that is done, Glendon should be able to come up with some sort of community government which will really serve rather than oppress people.

Enough.

Worker Struggles

The wage negotiations between York's cleaners and tradesmen and the administration is just beginning to develop. At present, the union has refused the offer worked out by the admin and the union's negotiating committee.

What possibility there is of compromise is uncertain. Neither the admin nor members of the negotiating committee will reveal anything.

One thing is certain, however. The workers, mainly the cleaners, feel that they are not being offered a living wage. The hassle lies in the way their take-home (ie. living) pay is reduced one-quarter to one-third by pension, medical and other deductions.

Although we sympathize with the workers, it should be pointed out that no increase which the admin might grant will solve the basic problem — how to put bread on the table.

The root of the problem lies not with a particularly grasping administration (although their financial wisdom might often be reasonably questioned) but rather

with the existing competition and profit-oriented capitalist system we live under. O.K., you're probably saying: "Crap. Don't lay this capitalist trip on me again. It doesn't mean anything to me. I can't relate capitalism to the root causes of my hassles."

We're sorry. Part of the problem is that we are just beginning to articulate our reasons for damning capitalism. It's going to take a while.

A couple of things we are sure of though. There is no way that the mass of workers who are killing themselves for bare living wages will ever win as long as men like William P. Scott, chairman of York's board of governors, Henry Ford and E. P. Taylor exploit the natural and human resources of this world to maintain economic and political power for their own interest.

There is no way that workers will assume their rightful and equal share of this society as long as the tax and "benefits" structures are shaped so that the poor pay and the rich take — so long as tax laws are created by a Canadian government notorious for being the shameless whore of U.S.-controlled big business.

There is no way that workers will ever win as long as the elite who run this society adhere to an "ethic" which says "if we grant a wage increase, we will maintain/increase our profit margin by raising prices here and creating another false consumer need over there."

Enough.

EXCALIBUR

staff meeting

5 today

be there

(please)

Excalibur

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