

York Sunday Movement: mandate for change?

by David McCaughna

"It is not mere numbers which alienate, it is the process by which the environment is controlled. When people have no control over their environment, when they cannot act as individuals to shape their lives, when people are socially castrated by the structures within which they live, they are dehumanized." — from a York Sunday Movement leaflet.

The York Sunday Movement developed last fall as a group of students came together to discuss the problems they found with the university. Originally an informal discussion group meeting on Sunday afternoons in Vanier common room, the group grew, became more active and now it is one of the most significant groups on the York campus with thirteen candidates running for positions on the York Student Council.

David Chud, candidate for Founders YSC representative, explains that the YSM is working on three primary levels:

- the problem of the student in the classroom
- structural problems involving the uni-

versity vs. the students.

• the situation of the university in terms of society.

"We are primarily concerned with the problems of the kids in the classroom," Chud says.

"Students are unhappy in school, they have a feeling of being lost. The students are separated from the content of the courses. We hope to change this. We want to make the university more relevant to the students."

"We will attempt to bring about change at York by changing the existing structure of the university," says David Chud.

"Our major emphasis will be on content. We want to see changes in the courses, in the methods of teaching, and in the tutorial size. The boredom and frustration is caused by structures and these structures can be altered."

While the YSM is basically concerned with the university, they also view the university in its relationship to the Canadian society. "To make York into a university critical of the society in which we live," they say, "and seek to change, students must organize themselves to counter the corporate power of the university, which serves the present Canadian society, with the independent power of the students. In this way we believe York students can effect change not only in the method of decision making at York, but also in the values and goals which those decisions promote to Canadian society."

The York Sunday Movement decided to run a slate in the YSC election because they feel that it will provide them with a good opportunity to publicize their views and that if they succeed by getting into YSC they will be able to implement their views.

The YSM doesn't think much of the college system as a means of combating the ills of York. Duncan McKie, former editor of the now defunct Seer and vice-presidential candidate, explains: "The college system is irrelevant. It doesn't counter-balance alienation. I feel that 1,000 are just as alienating as 12,000."

Unions best approach

How does the York Sunday Movement propose to approach the problems they see at York? Departmental unions, they feel, are the best vehicle. In every department in the university they would set-up parallel bodies — one of students and one of faculties. These bodies would be concerned with all matters pertaining

to the particular department. All decisions will be made in a large group containing everyone in the course.

"Neither the students or the faculty has the right to enforce itself upon the other," says Bob Roth, "they must work together."

The York Sunday Movement hopes to bring the YSC much closer to the average York student. All major decisions will be made at open forums and students will be urged to express their views and perhaps voting at YSC meetings will be open to any student wishing the right.

"Students shouldn't be alienated from YSC as was done this year," explains Duncan McKie.

Bad Liberalism

"York is a liberal university," says David Chud, "but liberal in a bad way. Changes are made here to forestall other, more meaningful changes. But we realize that the main problem is not with the administration but with the students. We hope to convince them of the necessity of change. We plan to show students that there are reasons not to be apathetic and we hope that many students will see things as we do."

York population explosion: autumn of student discontent

by Harvey Rosen

The autumn of student discontent is approaching faster than you may think, and if anything is to be done about it for next year, YSC had better start moving now.

Next fall, the undergraduate enrolment on the York Campus is expected to be 5,308 students; an increase of 35% over this year. In addition to this there will be approximately 514 graduate students and 690 Osgoode Hall students. This brings next year's total enrolment to 6512 students.

The York University policy concerning residence has been that 25% of the undergraduate students be residents. According to A.C. Johnson, Assistant Vice-president, this arrangement has been most satisfactory.

This year there are 3936 undergrads and 1022 spaces available in residence (25%). Johnson felt that there were few cases of students who sought accommodations in one of the four residence buildings, and were unable to find them. This might well be true, although YSC claims that they had to find accommodation for 100 students and faculty last September.

However, this coming fall, there will be a 35 increase in undergraduate enrolment, and since the university is building neither a new college nor a new residence, there will probably be over 300 displaced students. This seems bad but it's worse than that.

With over 1200 graduates and Osgoode students on campus, and only one graduate residence completed for the fall, it is conceivable that there might be as many as 500 displaced students.

Why only one graduate student residence?

A.R. Dawson, Director of Campus Planning, doesn't see the second building being completed before the end of October, providing that a construction workers' strike this summer doesn't inhibit completion.

Dawson, the eternal optimist, also stated that there was a possibility that a fifth college would be completed by this coming autumn, but that it would have no residence for the present.

On hearing this, George Tatham, Master of McLaughlin, said the claim was "ridiculous". Tatham pointed out that it takes two months to receive tenders and with only five months remaining, it is absurd to even consider completion by September.

YSC humbly admits that their Housing Bureau, set up during the last week of August, 1968, was an unco-ordinated effort resulting in housing for only 100 students and faculty. They added that the blame didn't entirely lie with them.

Lack of a committed staff, plus the fact that, even though they demanded it, the

responsibility was quickly given to them; were two reasons offered for their unsatisfactory results.

Considering this type of performance last fall, it is obvious that they're going to have a good deal of serious work ahead of them.

Do any of you remember the York Community Co-operative Board or the York Community Residence Incorporation? The Co-op Board was to organize a project to build a married students residence in the Edgely development west of the campus, and the Residence Incorporation was to build a co-op.

Both were organized by Atkinson students and from last reports, prospects looked good. Unfortunately, they both failed to receive loans from Central Mortgage and Housing Corp., and ultimately folded.

Then there was University City. Remember that? According to the North York Municipal Offices, it is still on the drawing board, and will be there for another three or four years.

The situation gets blacker yet. According to the 1952 bylaw which is still officially in effect, only those living completely alone may board up to two people; providing that they live as one family i.e. using the same kitchen, etc.

The University Residence Committee meets early next month to decide on new residence policies. They may decide to restrict resident students to those living outside a specific radius of the campus, or perhaps to those residents of Metro without cars.

However, it is obvious that certain restrictions are going to be necessary to ensure fair admission procedures, and to ease the approaching student housing crisis.

And The Grad Residences

The Graduate Student Residence presently under construction will be completed by the end of spring, according to Mr. A. R. Dawson, Director of Campus Planning.

However the second grad residence is presently barely into above-ground construction, and won't be completed until the end of next November, barring any difficulties with unions.

Admission to the Grad Residences will be relatively open, with grads getting first choice of rooms. At present, Dawson added, "it doesn't look as if there will be any problem filling the building on a one-year lease basis." All units will be furnished.

Any decisions regarding who will be permitted to enter will be decided by the Campus Planning Committee at future meetings.

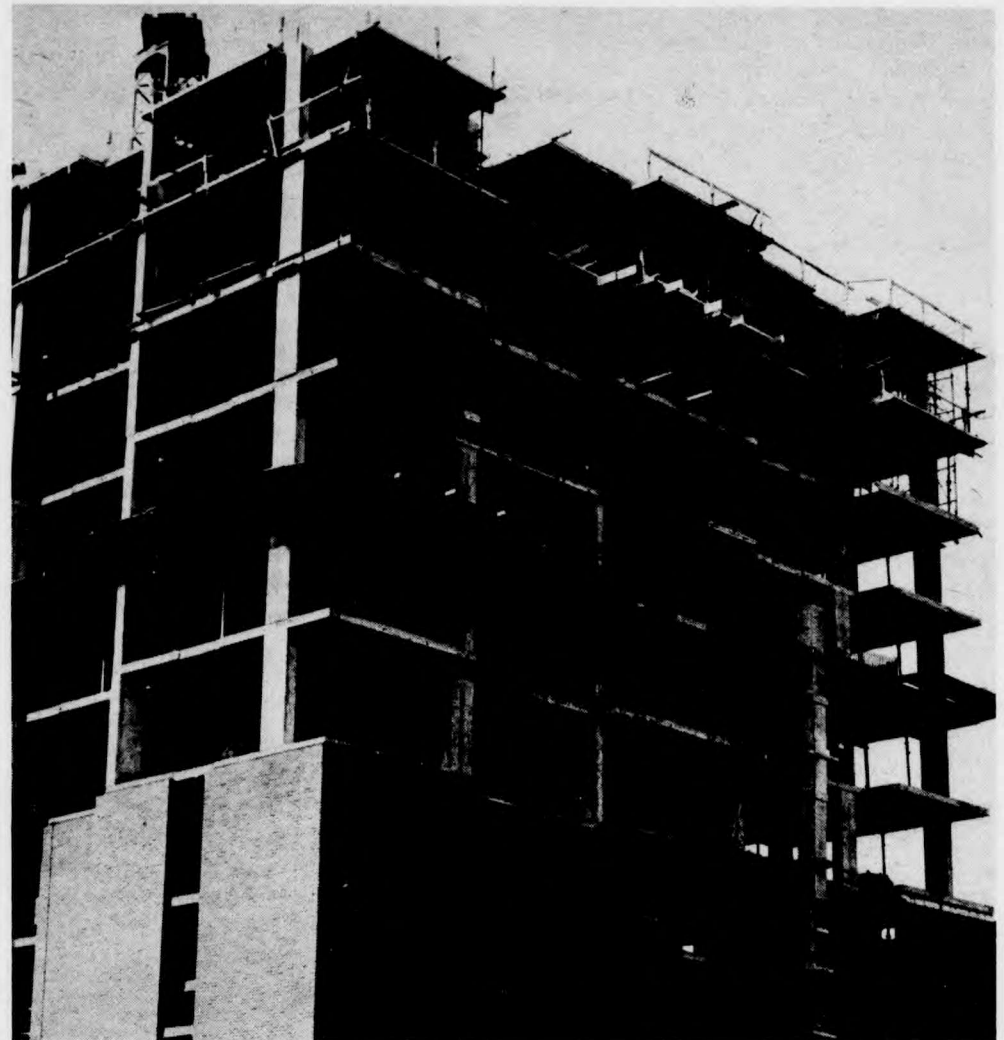


photo: Rick Argals

The lack of money and the unexpected grad enrollment has made the construction of this grad residence and its sister structure merely a drop in relieving the student housing situation.

Senate puts Pritchard down

The infamous motion by Professor Pritchard of the Chemistry Department to have Excalibur columnist Larry Goldstein expelled from York was rejected by the senate at its meeting last Thursday.

The senate's executive committee had earlier recommended that Pritchard's motion was not in an area of the senate's responsibilities since it involved Goldstein's extra-curricular, non-academic activities. The executive motion was overwhelmingly passed.

Professor Pritchard attempted to fight the recommendation with a speech which included: "Senate should (not) stand by and watch the destruction of this university," by "pressures to degrade York into a cross between an overgrown high school and a trade union seminar."

He called on the senate to "make some expression of its feelings" to Goldstein's column and Excalibur, which he called "irresponsible actions masquerading un-

der the guise of free speech."

He said he recognized the fact that the senate officially cannot punish students for non-academic reasons, but wanted the senate to make "an expression of our opinion," so the president would take disciplinary action with a feeling of support.

An attempt to introduce each of Pritchard's four-part motion separately was seconded by H.I. Schiff of the chemistry department, but was easily defeated by members of the senate.

The only part of Pritchard's motion to be passed was a "regret" of the Excalibur publication of Pritchard's "confidential" expulsion memo before the senate executive had received it.

The senate advised its members to be more careful in the future concerning such confidential material.

Excalibur reporters and editors have refused to divulge who assisted them in obtaining a copy of the memo.