

Weird humour causes suspensions at St. Mary's

Halifax (CUP) — A strange piece of undergrad humour shocked the administration of a small Roman Catholic School here into suspending the editor and columnist of the school's newspaper last month.

Reid Barry and Robert Cotie, editor and columnist for the St. Mary's Journal, were suspended indefinitely Dec. 2 because of a column entitled "Mother Tucker" printed in the paper.

The column was in question-and-answer format, and used the name of administration President Henry J. Labelle and two other administration officials in connection with a supposed rush to invite Mother Tucker to a Winter Weekend.

It also contained another letter asking Mother Tucker why the correspondent's date to a club party was offended when the writer, "pissed to the gills", urinated in a cigarette machine.

Barry and Cotie were suspended by Labelle without benefit of a hearing.

At a later meeting, the two were informed that they would be permitted to write their exams and their suspensions would be lifted upon publication of a letter of apology approved beforehand by the administration.

Barry agreed, saying that "the important thing is getting back in and then we can blast them all we

want." Cotie plans to fight the suspension and said "to condone the probably illegal and definitely totalitarian methods used by the St. Mary's administration by making a unilateral apology would be completely contrary to what I believe to be the principles of democracy, justice, and university education."

Labelle said the article contained "grossly offensive material" when he announced the suspensions in a radio interview.

Student president Mike O'Sullivan said the suspension was "illegal" though he agreed not to take action if such was the desire of the editors.

Resignations:

Council battles on

A stormy six hour meeting of the York Student Council Tuesday night pushed through a major constitutional amendment and agreed to pay for fines imposed on five executive members for their removal of parking signs on campus.

Under the new amendment, any college can join YSC if half the students of the college vote in favour. Any college can later withdraw if two-thirds of its students vote to do so. The college will be required to keep up its commitments until the end of the academic year, before withdrawing.

This new amendment, once accepted, is a radical change in the constitutional hang-ups of the university-wide council. Previously a two-thirds approval of the YSC council itself was required before any member college could withdraw, and only after having held and won a referendum on withdrawal within the college itself.

The old constitution had come under attack from the college councils, which had on several occasions considered pulling out of the YSC but have been partially held in by lack of a two-thirds approval by YSC.

The membership rule had also been used to hold the graduate students council to its fee commitment after the grads considered pulling out. The constitution had also come under attack early in September from Board of Governors member Mr. Justice Laskin. He described the constitution as an ingeniously binding contract.

An earlier attempt by MacLaughlin college to join YSC under a special clause permitting them a quick exit in June if they wished, was dropped.

The council barely passed a decision to pay the \$25 fine levied upon some members of the executive for their involvement in the early November Great Parking Sign Robbery.

Executive member Larry Rapoport had warned the council that a refusal to vote for the payment would be a move of non-confidence in those executive members involved, and would force him to resign.

Rapoport noted that earlier attempts to impeach the council for the parking sign adventure had failed. He argued that to refuse to pay the executive fines was to accept what he termed the non-existence of any parking committee, and approval of "the unjust ad-hoc committee of President Ross", which found the executive members guilty of vandalism.

Councillor Horace Campbell replied that to vote to pay the fine was to register approval of the YSC executive, while the students had been fined as individuals.

YSC president John Adams said the convicted students have been granted another 15 days to pay the fine, Councillor Jerry Blair told Rapoport he felt the executive threat to resign if the payment vote was defeated was a form of intimidation, and should be withdrawn.

The vote was finally passed after two members of the executive reversed their abstention vote and in a recount vote made the difference in approving the fines payment.

Speaker John Bosley apologized to the council for his involvement in the parking sign raid, saying that he should have remained impartial and apolitical during the removal of the signs. Council received his apology without comment.

Following the meeting Councillor Horace Campbell resigned from the YSC, accusing the executive members of lacking the personal integrity to abstain from the controversial vote to pay for the fines.

Executive member Glen Murray clashed with President John Adams following the meeting over the fact that "for months Adams has had absolutely no support from his executive" and "isn't a good president for York at this time." Mr. Murray said he also intended to resign immediately.

The men's and women's Athletic Councils are not getting any money from YSC, because YSC says it simply has no more to give out. This was decided at the meeting earlier Tuesday night.

But both councils will receive top priority on any further money that becomes available, and there is a definite possibility that some will. At the present time YSC is looking into the activities and allocation of funds of a certain unnamed club. According to a statement by Eric Crucshank, Finance Commissioner, this club may have not been telling the whole truth in its original submission to him, and upon which he made his recommendation of allocation of funds.

The cheerleaders were also left out again as YSC does not feel that is their place to finance a group which in virtually all other universities is classified as a varsity team, and as such is financed by the athletic budget like our illustrious football team. YSC recommended that the girls go to Dr. Bryce Taylor, director of Physical Education and again request that they be recognized as a varsity team.



photo by Scott McMaster

ON CAMPUS. EVERGREEN TREES AGAINST VANIER TOWER. AND THE TOWER RISES INTO THE SKY. BLACK WITH MIDNIGHT. TO MEET ETERNITY. AND DEATH.
(poem by Claude)

More student senators?

by George B. Orr

Student senator Dave King will be bringing a motion to the next Senate meeting proposing that Senate committee membership be expanded by five students.

"Since most of Senate's work is done in committee, I feel that there should be at least one student on each of the ten major committees."

King said that these students need not become Senators, although it might be nice.

Some committees, such as those dealing with curriculum and librarial services might benefit from having two students on them, but King's initial push will be for one per committee.

With this in mind, he is calling together a forum of all student representatives to take place later this month.

King points out that at Queens, there are 20 students on standing Senate committees, while there are only 15 student senators.

He feels that there will be little or no real opposition to his motion, as it will merely be increasing the representivity of students without absorbing Senate seats.

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