

Our Mistake

Sir:

Since my name is used in association with a critical comment by an unnamed "council observer" in an article on CYSF incorporation in your last issue, perhaps I could be permitted to supply some facts.

1. Reference is made to "confidential anti-incorporation arguments" which I circulated. The documents I circulated were:

a. draft objects and bylaws of the proposed incorporated CYSF which was freely offered to me by the president of CYSF with no restriction placed on its circulation.

b. a feasibility study completed by the solicitors for CYSF and Winters college council which speaks in favor of incorporation. This was forwarded to me some months ago by both parties.

c. a comment from the university solicitor which lists, at some length, both advantages and disadvantages of incorporation and ends on what might be termed a mildly negative note.

d. a recent statement prepared by the CYSF solicitors which goes into more detail and, once again, lists both advantages and disadvantages concluding on a positive note. This document was sent to me, in quantity, after a telephone request to the CYSF office.

The master of Vanier College requested these documents from me for distribution to his council. Presumably the CYSF would have extended the same courtesy to any constituent member council or master as was extended to me.

The material which I have on hand and will distribute on request is, in the main, encouraging about the advantages of incorporation since it has been prepared by the firm which is working closely with and encouraging both the CYSF and the Winters college council.

Neither the president, nor I, have received any communication from any council requesting an opinion on incorporation.

My intention, as I hope is obvious from the above, is not to judge what might be an advantageous form of organization for either the CYSF or Winters college council until they have arrived at documents which express fully the wishes of those councils. These wishes will be better articulated in the context of an open debate which I am interested in supporting. I am aware, of course, that some student governments in this province are incorporated while others are waiting for the provincial secretary to approve their applications for incorporation.

If I have inadvertently betrayed a confidence extended by officers of the CYSF, I apologize and will await their advice regarding the disposal of the documents that I still retain.

John A. Becker
Assistant vice-president

EXCALIBUR wishes to apologize to Mr. Becker and Vanier College master C. D. Fowle for any embarrassment our story may have caused. We did not know these facts at press time. — ed.

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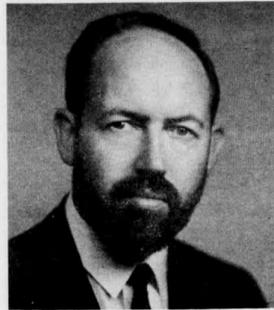
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'These 3 were equally acceptable'

A. D. Allen



By SHERRY BRYDSON

Albert Derrick Allen is a quiet, soft-spoken chemistry professor who is known at the University of Toronto for his ability to get along with student activists and stubborn faculty members alike.

A U of T arts and science dean Allen is best known for his determined efforts to seat students on his committee to implement the Macpherson Report. Macpherson's recommendations, handed down in 1968 after a year of study, called for smaller classes, more labs and tutorials and fewer lectures, abolition of the distinction between general and honors courses and more freedom for arts students in choice of courses.

When the Macpherson report proved too bitter a pill for the crusty U of T arts and science faculty to swallow, Allen was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate ways of implementing the Macpherson report. To his credit, he concluded the study quickly, presenting only a slightly watered-down version of Macpherson's original.

Again the faculty tried to stall, demanding yet another study committee in a series of open meetings. Throughout several weeks of bitter fighting, Allen stood by the students' demands for parity in the face of criticism by some of the faculty's more determined dinosaurs and eventually a committee of 25 students and 25 faculty was chosen.

This third committee, organized hurriedly in November, 1968, moved through its business swiftly and in February, 1969, Allen presented his final report to the senate. Senate approval was more or less automatic, and Allen announced: "We believe, unashamedly, that the new undergraduate program in arts and science at the University of Toronto will be unsurpassed anywhere in the world."

But York registrar Gordon Howarth got in his two cents' worth. He pointed out that York has been operating on a free-choice system since 1960: "These programs may be a new thing for them but we've been doing this for years."

Allen's battle with his faculty did not end with senate approval of his programs, however. For the next six months, Allen was forced to keep a tight rein on department chairmen who spent their time trying to figure out how to get around Allen's proposals and keep course requirements as rigid as under the old system. Their filibustering efforts caused the faculty calendar to be published several weeks late, too late to be mailed to prospective students.

"It was largely due to Dean Allen's gentle but firm pressure that we published the calendar at all," said one faculty member. "He really rode some of those department chairmen hard."

Former student council president Steve Langdon says he was "pretty impressed" with Allen in his dealings with the dean last year. "He has a non-authoritarian attitude to his job in relations with his department and with other people in the faculty," says Langdon.

"At the same time, he's pretty sympathetic to student aims. Maybe we should hope he doesn't get chosen—we can use men like him at U of T."

When the Commission on University Government conducted interviews with faculty and department heads to determine where power originates at U of T, many faculty men tried to conceal things from the researchers. But not Allen.

"He was much more candid, more open, than I thought he would be," said one researcher. "I had the impression he was being frank with us, and said what he was thinking."

As dean of U of T's largest faculty—12,000 students and about 400 faculty—Allen finds little time these days for his chemistry research. In 1965, while he was associate dean under Vincent Bladen, Allen and colleague Frank Bottomley discovered a way of copying nitrogen fixation—the formation of nitrogen compounds without first separating nitrogen from oxygen in the atmosphere. The discovery ended what was termed by scientists "a sort of international race for discovery" and was quite a feather for U of T's cap.

British-born and educated, Allen came to Canada in 1957 as a research chemist with the International Nickel Company at Sudbury. After two years, he returned to academic life as an assistant professor of chemistry at U of T.

He was appointed associate dean in 1964 and assumed the job of dean in 1966.

Michael Oliver



By JOHN KING

When the McGill Daily reprinted an article from the U.S. magazine The Realist in November, 1967, the McGill University administration decided the article was obscene and that action had to be taken. The editors were suspended.

In a closed senate meeting, Michael K. Oliver, the university's vice-principal (academic) proposed the idea of calling the police on campus to end a student sit-in over the dispute.

The next day, Nov. 9, 1967, when he was confronted by a group of the students, he said the police would not be called in to stop the sit-in—just to keep order outside. That night the police came in and broke up the sit-in, giving Oliver the dubious honor of being the first administrator to call police on campus in Canada.

Oliver, 45, has been McGill's vice-principal (academic) since just before that incident. He has been described by the McGill Daily as "a liberal bulwark against hardliners in the administration."

In an interview with the Daily Oct. 20, this year, Oliver was quoted as saying, "I'm personally in favor of change in the university."

But he doesn't believe in violence. During the 1967 sit-in he was quoted as saying "If anyone uses violence it won't be the administration that starts it." He fraternized with the protesters at the time, talking and discussing with them.

In the Oct. 20 Daily interview Oliver talked about what he thought were the main qualities that a new principal of McGill should have:

"You certainly need a person of outstanding personal integrity, one who has qualities which will enable him to represent a university like McGill in the general and academic public. He must command the kind of respect that McGill needs in scientific and academic circles..."

"He must be a person who is in tune with the needs of the university itself internally, and of all universities, for we're facing very similar problems, not only in North America, but in the world. He's the person I think who can command the respect and support of the staff and the students—a person who has his own ideas, views, values, because this is a post which does demand a good deal of leadership. He must be open to the ideas of others. I think that is an impossible job."

"The new principal must be someone who is able to obtain for the university the maximum financial resources to enable it to do all the things it must. That means a person who is able to move sympathetically but strongly in terms of the relationship with the provincial government, and in terms of the community which that university represents."

Oliver thinks that "the notion of the community of scholars which has a very high degree of liberty and self-government is an ideal towards which we should always be striving." He says he would be "extremely disturbed if the university is not in fact controlled by itself."

Oliver thinks McGill's board of governors, which is essentially the same as York's, needs to be changed and redefined.

"I think that eventually we're going to move to a unicameral system, a single governing body with a majority of faculty on it with some representation of students and outside bodies, having important committees attached to it through which we can benefit from the fund of support and good will which exists in the outside community."

"There may have been a day sometime in North America when the business community was logically the only part of the outside world who sat on the board of governors. But that day is past... This must not continue too long."

Oliver received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in political science from McGill. He has held posts as associate professor at the University of New Brunswick (1950-51), United College in Winnipeg (1952-57) and at McGill (1958-63).

He was a member of the Superior Labor Council in Quebec and federal president of the New Democratic Party in 1961. In 1964 he left his post at McGill to become director of research for the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.

John T. Saywell



By ROSS HOWARD

He's a swinger, John Tupper Saywell, and he's York's only candidate for new president of the university.

TV star, prolific writer of history texts, educational reviews, criticisms and Canadiana, political insider (very close to Trudeau back in '68), and dean of arts and science at York, Saywell has been a number-one man on campus since he arrived.

Now 40 years old, Saywell arrived in 1963 from the University of Toronto, as associate dean and chairman of the social sciences division. The following year Saywell was made dean of arts and sciences.

Between his arrival and his appointment as dean, all Hell broke loose at York, which was then only Glendon College.

In June 1963, six members of the 48-member faculty quit, four of them in anger, over charges of mismanagement by York president Murray Ross and his administration.

Five of those who left wrote letters directly to board chairman Robert Winters, some of them with criticism of Ross' policies on staff salaries and promotions, and his administrative abilities.

A leader in the staff revolt was sociology chairman John Seeley, now head of a California center for the study of democratic institutions.

Seeley called for an investigation, saying "What York requires now is not merely new but quite different leadership."

Arts and science dean R.O. Earl, who had been brought out of retirement to head up the faculty for two years, denied the charges, and defended the administration's policies. He said he couldn't understand the statement by resigned professor Richard J. Coughlin that "unless something is done, it will become increasingly difficult to attract good staff."

A second board investigation into the dissatisfaction was held and refuted it all, in what some people called a "whitewash."

The following year Saywell was appointed dean. Seeley left York, and talk of staff revolt died down.

But two years later another critic of the administration "was forced to leave," in his words, later charging Saywell with being a "willing servant, if not the chief architect, of a patronizing and sometimes vicious administration."

The professor concerned, Richard Pope, now teaching social science and anthropology at Regina, repeated his attack on Saywell last year after Saywell declared on TV that he would resign if a "purge of leftist professors at York" could be proven.

Pope agreed his firing was not for political reasons but he and other profs had been "a persistent and public critic of York's structure and educational policy."

"Faculty members who are sympathetic to students are not being hired, or are being fired," he added.

Saywell's only reply was to agree that Pope had not been fired for political reasons.

Beyond this one aftermath of the purge, Saywell has remained out of sight, and out of controversy.

It is known Saywell is against students on the board of governors, thinks the present board is fine, and is in no hurry to see a one or two tiered university government (less power for the board.)

His faculty is big, pretty innovative (at professors' requests.) And has lots of money. Saywell controls the money part — unlike other deans he has no financial advisory council, and he alone decides which department gets the most money for recruitment.

(Political science says it is going to be completely restricted from proper recruiting this year, because of its small budget. Last year economics got a healthy budget, and hired too many profs to teach courses with a falling enrollment.) Other departments have problems too.

And presently there is a so-called "regular" review of the whole faculty of arts and science, including the dean's post, which has so far been very secretive about its deliberations.

His present office is directly across the hall from the president's, on the top floor of the Hum building. Where will his next office be?