

Is apathy a good thing?

I must wonder sometimes if there isn't a basic inherent feeling amongst us that apathy is a good thing. Sure we have been harassed by campus government and media for not standing up and getting involved, but think about it mother, can we really help it?

It stands to reason that unless a student is really egotistical enough, or willing to play the power games of political life there is little left to become involved in. Let's face it. Put all your candidates for any student office in a bag, shake it up, pull two of them out and you will find they are identical.

It's a fact of political life that people don't want to vote for a person who has new ideas and is unconventional. Mind you they don't want a person who is formed in the mold of a student politician either. Result, blatant apathy. Nobody votes for anything.

So what happens to the non-politicians. How can we voice our opinions or lack of them? It could conceivably be that the responsibility for student participation does not lie with the average Yorkian, but with the student government. The number one priority of any campus organization should be to work with the students for their benefit, not for a good quality point on a job application form, or for the pleasure of power.

Are CYSF members working for the students or themselves? What exactly does the Senate do for the average student? Are the administrations of the colleges and the university dic-

tating to the student councils what policies they feel should be implemented? How many people know the real answer to these questions... obviously not many.

All in all, Mike Mouritsen — he's the president of CYSF — has quite a public relations job ahead of him.

Basically, what Mike should do is establish some sort of rapport with the proletarian student. He must make himself more openly available and increase access to the CYSF administration.

This can be done in many ways.

First, Mouritsen must encourage the CYSF members to realize the importance of the obligation they have undertaken to be members of that body. They serve the student's interests, not their own.

Secondly, open CYSF meetings should be held occasionally in the daytime when all students have a chance to witness the true essence of student politics. Thirdly, CYSF should have an official who does nothing but act on student complaints, opinions and constructive criticisms, and follow them through until the parties involved are completely satisfied.

In other words, in this land of ivory towers and intellectual castles, let's have some gut-level communication between those in elected positions and those they serve. If this cannot be done, then what good is student government in the first place? Or is that why less than 10 per cent voted in the last student election.

Opinion piece

SDS support increases

Submitted by the SDS

Paradoxically, the venom of the attacks on the SDS in recent issues of York newspapers has proven our validity, increased interest in us, and increased our membership.

Our student organization is relevant in that it fights racism, sexism and imperialism not only in Canada but on an international basis. SDS has been at the forefront of the fight against U of T psychiatrist Ian Hector, who puts forward the view that Italians are "culturally predisposed" to fake injuries. We helped get him fired by the Workmen's Compensation Board and supported injured workers in other struggles against the WCB.

SDS has forced William Shockley to stop teaching a course in which he claimed "black genes are inferior to white genes." The American Anthropological Association adopted an SDS anti-racist resolution, and the Eastern Psychological Association passed a resolution condemning "use of inconclusive data on the heredity of IQ."

SDS is producing papers, pamphlets and petitions: demonstrating; writing books; and exposing racism and sexism in widely used texts authored by Jensen, Coleman, Banfield, Shockley, Eysenck, Moynihan, Ardrey, Lorenz, Morris, Fox, Tiger, Jencks and Borgatta (a partial list).

The point is, SDS fights racism, and is building a strong international anti-racist movement. This is essential in view of the increasing use of racism by world governments, both to further oppress minority groups and to divide the working class. Where we have not yet had all our demands met, we have, at the very least, helped to expose the nature of the

university in society and its role in building racism.

Tim Tynan, in his hysterical opinion piece in Excalibur (Oct. 18, 1973), states that SDS is "a foreign organization designed to suit American needs and relate to American people."

Is a group which fights racism "a foreign organization suiting American needs"? Is a group which organized opposition to racist changes in Canadian immigration policy "a foreign organization suiting American needs"? Is a group which fights to get Canadian workers just compensation "a foreign organization suiting American needs"? Is a group which organized student support for the Dare Cookie strike "a foreign organization suiting American needs"? Injured immigrant workers and other victims of racism in Canada might not agree.

Tynan obviously neglected, in his haste, to add that SDS is a part of "the international Jewish conspiracy." The "foreign devils" theory has been used by reactionaries from Hitler to McCarthy, and in the final analysis people will see through it. Ask yourself this—does Tynan's hysterical nationalism help fight racism - or help build it? Maybe Tynan could tell us about other groups at York who are fighting racism—we would like to work together with them.

At York, we have no American members, but would welcome them as we welcome Chinese, Europeans, West Indians, Canadians, Indians, anybody—since racism affects all nationalities and must be dealt with on an international basis.

Letters To The Editor

Student want to print on Saturdays

On Saturday, October 27th, some distinguished guests, the public at large and people of this university were invited to attend Celebration II—the opening of the Fine Arts Centre/Phase II. These people attended in large numbers and were welcomed to wander through the building to examine the facilities.

It is sad to note that the printmaking studio, in particular, was open to all these people when usually it is closed on Saturdays. Students are not allowed to print on Saturdays. Since these facilities are quite crowded during the week, printmaking majors have only limited time to print. Why not leave it open on Saturdays like the painting and sculpture studios?

It is even sadder to note that Dr. Joseph Green in his address to the Convocation mentioned that every support was being given to the students. That, as long as they were willing they were provided assistance to do, "Whatever they can carry their efforts to," but is it only to be a part-time affair?

It is agreed that we have a responsibility to the community at large and fortunately children of North York can and do use the dance facilities on Saturdays. But, doesn't our responsibility start with our own students? Why not let them use the facilities they pay for, on Saturdays also especially when almost anybody was allowed to wander in and out on Saturday, October 27th, Celebration II day?

I certainly would print on Saturdays and many others would also. Sunday would also be acceptable. We now have some facilities. Please let us use them.

RICHARD R. DELISLE

Facts on Tap 'n' Keg distorted

The current controversy over the licensing of campus pubs has caused many people to feel that we are facing some kind of crisis. Poor reporting and distortion of facts (as seen in the case of Richard Nixon) has sparked undue concern for a relatively minor issue. The article written by Warren Clements has, I feel, distorted the issue at hand.

Recent legislation introduced by the L.L.B.O. has made it necessary for the university to apply

for permanent liquor license. The application has been made and we are now awaiting approval. A permanent license will be advantageous to all concerned.

This issue has somehow been confused with the question of the legality of licences obtained by the Tap 'n' Keg Pub. Earlier in the year the university, concerned for the legality of all campus pubs, tightened its policy towards licensing. All licences must be obtained through either The Green Bush Inn Corporation or Food Services. Up until this year the Tap 'n' Keg Pub has obtained licences on its own.

Many rumours have circulated around the campus about the Tap 'N' Keg. To date I have not heard one that had any appreciable amount of fact in it. The real issue has somehow gotten lost.

The Tap 'n' Keg Pub started last year as an inexpensive and firm place to drink on campus. Its success complements its popularity. It has run efficiently and smoothly and will continue to do so for years to come. The Tap 'n' Keg Pub has never made any "wild and irrational" moves against the administration. No moves whatsoever have been made against the administration because there is no need for any.

It is unfortunate that some people have been a little overzealous in their defense of the Tap 'n' Keg's position because it has resulted in hard feelings where none were necessary. The prime concern has been to keep the costs down at all times. The Tap 'n' Keg has managed to do this as can be shown by its prices. A permanent liquor licence will help to lower costs (and prices) even further. I suggest that Mr. Clements learn how to identify and separate issues instead of confusing them.

J. PILLO
Manager of Tap 'N' Keg Pub.
Ed. note: The quote Mr. Pillo objects to came from the editorial in Bethune's newspaper, Lexicon.

Grad housing criticized by student

This is a personal protest against people who believe the world to be dishonest and conniving, and who are, in spite of this, working with the public all day.

I am speaking of the head of the graduate student housing office, who displayed impatience, unkindness and immaturity in dealing with me when I presented myself on a recent Monday with a lease that had terminated two months previously. It had come to my attention on the previous Friday, when the housing office was

closed, that my rent, paid in post-dated cheques, had not been deducted for two months. I had not at any time received notification that my lease was expiring—which is the practice of the office.

The attack which ensued was hardly a model of business conduct.

I was told that I would be out on the street if I were out in the commercial world, and that I of all people (I am an M.B.A. student) should be capable of keeping track of my bank book entries. The housing officer took the opportunity to remind me that the housing office had been "so good" to me in getting me an apartment—which I have absolutely no argument with, and told her so. She chose, in spite of my apology, my admittance that it was not an insignificant mistake, and my reasons, to keep insisting that I was quite inept.

Someone who allows vehemence to show to the degree she did (and she got very personal) in the face of human error is not the sort of person to be dealing with human beings.

This woman obviously believed I was trying to get away with two months' rent—which makes no sense to me. What would be the point of showing her the error?

If this administrator finds it so disagreeable to speak rationally to someone who inadvertently makes a mistake, she would be better off dealing with computers—but even they have been known to blunder.

BEATRICE DONALD
MBA II

Excalibur does it again YUSA rep charges

Well, Excalibur has done it again. Another attempt at politicized journalism. I know that I should be used to it by now but this instance is potentially too damaging to pass by as another childlike analysis by our embryonic Sun staffers.

The recent article on the efforts of the staff association to move toward a legalized bargaining unit contained the expected inaccuracies, misrepresentations and shoddy comprehension, factors which do nothing to further the uphill struggle of the support staff to achieve much needed improvements in their relationship to York's administration.

In fact, the front page article in the November issue of Excalibur, if taken seriously, would serve to weaken the efforts of the support staff to improve their situation at York. This, at a time when the staff needs the support of the

widest possible elements of the York community.

It can be said however that the author of this particular article can draw some small solace, both journalistically and politically, from the fact that it is superior to the editorial in the same issue.

That piece of writing reaps the full rewards of the author's ignorance of the basic questions at hand, naivete of the processes involved, inability to comprehend the simplest legal distinctions and failure to report the actual results of the decision reached by YUSA. While I can appreciate the slow and painful struggle toward social maturity that the author is experiencing, I do not appreciate the forum of expression that has been chosen.

The work being done by the staff association happens to involve very real issues. The outcome will not be a grade on a paper. It will affect directly monetary and social issues that define the lives of the people involved. Comments on the situation should reflect this seriousness. If at some time in the future Excalibur should again address itself to the staff situation and is prepared to bypass the convenience of simplicity and shallowness, YUSA would be pleased to discuss it. In the meantime, however, we would ask to be spared their juvenile attention.

KEITH OLEKSIUK
Chairperson,
YUSA Negotiating Committee.

Grad president attacks prof's academic elitism

Re: I.B. Heath's letter to the editor November 1
From one elitist to another (although as a graduate you do outshine me by far) I think that you need some work in concept clarification regarding the "for" of What is an education for?

I would therefore like you to answer this question. How many is too many graduates for the requirements of society? (Ruler and compasses not needed).

I shall make the question more specific: Why should I (let's pretend I am still an undergraduate) give up my desire to get a specialized education (regardless of my qualifications) just so that you and your worldwide brethren can have a better chance: a) to get a job; b) to keep it?

P. J. SELECKY,
President,
Graduate Student Association.