

# Excalibur

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

## College councils must disappear

Finding York's solution for the college system is very much like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack: you know it's there but the costs are so prohibitive in its search that you just don't go on for long.

Like the evangelist with God on his side, York has paraded its trump card only to find it's no trump at all: just a wild joker whose protection has solved no problems and only created more through its high costs. York's six year groping has not removed the student's alienation to the university structure and its so-called teachers.

The college system is remotely connected to the administration and the resident student. But the resident student comprises less than 10 per cent of the student population. Stong's appointment of a master for day students smacks of a last ditch attempt to create "nice happy day students" without looking at the structure itself.

Even in physical terms, it is plain to see the only college with any sort of distinct community involvement is Glendon. And why: because it is on a separate campus, isolated from the rest of York. A glance reveals that physical identity is the key to community action. That York's colleges lack such a gift is also clear to see. Oh yes, the buildings are different. But they are interwoven into the general York fabric which has the Ross Humanities(?) Building as a radial centre.

The academic courses offered are not unique in each college — rather they are grafts from the Ross Humanities

Building meant to rationalize the colleges' existence. And does the social and cultural life differ from college to college? No it does not. Instead, each college tries to outdo the other with a greater, bigger, and better beer bash, rock festival or dance to outprove the other of its social sophistication.

The Council of York Student Federation which is tied to the colleges for its mandate, for its budget to be approved each year, is held impotent by the strings of its own constitution. Instead of taking the lead in York politics, it contents itself with survival from the continual battering of college councils.

No chief administration strategist could have planned a better plan to keep students divided as did Murray Ross. Yet with time, it has backfired. Without the active questioning, the meaningful participation of students in their own council affairs, York has gained the reputation of a parochial extension of the high school battleground where students compete over dancing powers instead of joining together in intellectual pursuits. Inactive students breed intellectual stagnation which is quite apparent to any "teacher" found in York.

There is only one solution. The college council system must go. A new strong central council — to efficiently administer funds, to effectively legislate into action the needed reforms for all York students to participate in the affairs of the university must be formed now.

CYSF must sponsor a convention of delegates — directly elected from each college, thus bypassing the vested interests in both CYSF and the college councils — to draft a new constitution.

Petty politics do not mix with the new era of \$300,000 budgets and 23,000 students. The time to act is now.

## York must pool its resources

This editorial contains many of the points discussed by psychology professor David Bakan in his discussion Student as Nigger.

An education system that stresses competition between individuals is inappropriate for our times. The emphasis on the individual stretches beyond education and touches every aspect of our society. It may be hard to admit it, but the value system stressing individual competition is obsolete.

The self-made man isn't going to make it anymore. In an era of technological sophistication, one man is little more than a cog in the whole. That's not a dirty thought; it takes more than one man to make a moon landing. But the satisfaction and benefits from an achievement of that scope stretch and touch each individual engaged in that process.

One remedy is the corporate plan. The corporation moves from finance to intelligence and the pooling of intellect

becomes the key. Only in and through a co-operative effort can meaningful changes be effected. A modern education system has got to teach the art of intellectual co-operation. Then comes a weaving together of people and their resources for the common good.

The pooling of resources at York has to extend to the widest borders possible to be as potent as possible. This means extending beyond the individual colleges and coming together with other York students as a whole body.

The advantages of moving beyond the individual colleges are obvious. The difficulty comes in suppressing the blind narrow loyalty to one college, a sentiment that has had breeding grounds in students as products of an educational system that makes individual enterprise its sacred byword.

The 23,000 students at York (about 12,000 full-time, 11,000 part-time), working as a collective whole, would be a power to be reckoned with. The pool of resources would be deep. There's the

student budget of \$301,503. There's the intellect of all those minds asking questions — one after another. And finally, there's the political thrust a collective body of that size can wield. York students en masse can challenge the reflexive obedience and coercion fostered in the educational system to which they have always been subjected.

Bakan says, "I'm not saying there isn't someone 50 years old who knows what he's doing, but if there is, it's an accident, because they're trying to project the experiences of the last 30 years in the space of the 70's to the year 2000. And in terms of what's happening in the world, that's all wrong. Taking the old Biblical source of three score and 10 as check out time, you people have a 50 year investment to make as compared with the 10 or 20 year investment of the administrators. The university is yours, not theirs." But as long as students remain individually and college oriented, Student as Nigger will continue to be an apt phrase.



And God created the Student; and He saw it and that it was good; and the Holy Light of His Wisdom shone upon and guided the Student for an entire four years.

### Excalibur

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