

Rights report made public

The long awaited Laskin report on rights and responsibilities of members of York University is released to day in EXCALIBUR (see Pages 11-26).

The report contains 83 recommendations including the outlawing of "force, intimidating obstruction and seizure of premises" as a means of attaining

social change.

"The mounting of physical force or violence or depredation of any kind simply cannot be viewed as legitimate means of asserting the

freedoms so basic to the university," the report says.

The committee, which consisted of students, faculty and administration representatives was formed 18 months ago under the chairmanship of Justice Bora Laskin of York's board of governors.

Any or all of the recommendations must be approved by university president Murray Ross before they can be implemented.

Rolly Stroeter, a student on the committee, said the main purpose of the report is to stimulate discussion about discipline at York and he urged members of York to examine the report critically and offer suggestions if they are dissatisfied with any aspect of it.

The committee recommended that the university court, which is comprised of students and faculty, be given final approval by university president Murray Ross. Last spring Ross gave tentative approval to the court's formation.

The court would hear grievances by students, faculty or administration and would apply sanctions to guilty parties.

"The committee recommends as possible sanctions expulsion,

university courts if it is imprudently exercised with resulting injury to faculty members or students."

The report points out, however, that "the police need not await an invitation if a criminal offence has been committed on campus or if they have reasonable cause to suspect its commission."

The committee calls upon the university to implement "such general standards as the duty to refrain from destruction of property, from invasion of premises, from violence and from incitement to violence, from assault or threat of assault, from unjustified interference with the conduct of classes or of meetings, from obstruction of passage of others and from obstruction of ingress to or egress from campus buildings."

The university should have concern with student groups if they "engage in or incite conduct on the campus which improperly interferes with academic work or with faculty members of students engaged in such work or which results in or creates a reasonable apprehension of violence."

"Peaceful demonstrations or meetings which do not disrupt

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GRRR!!

Excalibur -- Dave Cooper

This is Snoopy, your friendly greeter (honest!!) when you go down to York Town Towing and Storage to pay your minimum \$12 in cash or certified check (\$10 for the tow and \$2 for each day your car is there) after it has been towed off the campus for parking on a fire route.

7 cars towed away yesterday

The tow trucks were busy yesterday when York's new parking regulations came into effect.

By 2 pm seven illegally parked cars had been towed off the campus to a police auto pound.

The new regulations, passed by the presidential advisory committee on parking last week, empower the university to have cars towed to York Town

Towing and Storage, 70 Le Page Crescent, two blocks south of Finch Avenue on Keele Street. Parking and traffic fines on campus have also been increased.

The new regulations were prompted mainly by cars blocking the fire routes into the university. In two incidents so far this year a fire truck and an ambulance have not been able to get close to the college complex to answer a call.

Incorporation opposed

Vanier calls CYSF vote

By BOB ROTH

Vanier college council Tuesday voted to oppose the incorporation of the Council of the York Student Federation and decided to hold a referendum January 9 on the college's membership in the university-wide student council.

Vanier college councillor Joe Charron said CYSF's incorporation as a legal entity would give college councils a subordinate status and lead to the "end of college identity and this is what this university is all about ... YSF is a fungus organization."

CYSF president Paul Koster has said the main reason he thought the council should incorporate would be to allow the council to borrow money in the event the council wants to build a student union building or coop housing in the future.

Due to dissatisfaction with CYSF in general, the college council voted to hold a referendum Jan. 9 on Vanier's membership in CYSF.

According to the CYSF constitution a two-thirds majority of those voting is needed before Vanier can pull out. In addition the constitution says the college cannot withdraw until the end of the academic year.

Vanier college chairman Rod Macdonald says he will check to see if there is any way the college could withdraw sooner.

Vandoo editor Mel Lubek last week failed to get the Vanier council to call a referendum but when he obtained the required number of signatures on a petition to force one, the council decided to take the initiative.

Lubke charged that members of CYSF were doing "a crappy job." It was time, he said, to attack CYSF's ability "to do nothing while wasting \$60,000."

He said the referendum would allow Vanier students themselves to decide for the first time whether they wanted to be in CYSF.

The original decision was made by the college council, he says.

Mourners out today for peace in Biafra

University, high school and religious groups in Canada and the United States are demonstrating today to try to achieve peace in Biafra.

Organizers hope the programs will put pressure on the government to help implement a ceasefire and arms embargo in Nigeria and Biafra.

The York University Biafra Relief Committee, in conjunction with other groups in Toronto, has organized the following program of events for today:

12 noon — Starvation meal in college cafeterias (proceeds to go

to Canairelief).

1 pm — Samuel Imeko, the Biafran minister of reconstruction will speak in the Winters junior common room.

6 pm — Steven Lewis will speak at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto.

6:30 pm — Cliff Robertson's movie on Biafra, at Convocation Hall.

7:30 pm — Candlelight procession to city hall. At city hall Stanley Burke and Imeko will speak. Folksinger Falome Bey and the St. Michael's Boys Choir will entertain.

Text of rights and responsibilities committee report

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suspension, deferment of suspension on promise of good behaviour, apology, retraction, and reprimand," the report says.

It adds, however, that "sanctions within the power of the courts against a member of the administration be a reprimand and an apology or public retraction, since the purpose of judicial condemnation is not to punish the administration but to secure redress for faculty members and students."

The committee pointed out that under the York University Act Ross can legally overrule or reverse any university court decision.

"Acceptance of the core of this report would involve a self-limitation of the powers of the president under the York University Act," the report says.

Concerning "on-campus conduct which may merit discipline by the university although not amounting to a violation of the law of the land," the report says "the definition of such conduct in any but general terms has baffled the committee."

However, it says that "it is easy enough to be specific about activities which directly disrupt the university's functions of teaching or research; a strike of faculty members and a concerted refusal by students to vacate a classroom intended for others are examples."

The committee completely ruled out a "show of force" as legitimate means of expression.

"The committee does not ignore the fact that there may be precipitating reasons for a manifestation of force," the report says.

"If, however, policies are advocated for adoption or social issues pressed for approval by the administration and it is unwilling to agree, this committee is unable to appreciate that a deadlock becomes justification for a legitimate show of force."

Proponents of such matters should content themselves with "peaceful means of persuasion" the report says.

"The committee is of the opinion that we are a long way from totalitarian repression at York to warrant metaphysical rationalizations on the just use of force. Analogies from conditions elsewhere simply do not fit the facts."

Ultimate responsibility to call police on campus lies with the administration, the report says.

But "that judgement may well be called in question before the

university activities such as lectures, laboratory work or library study, and which are held in areas or places either allotted or open for such purposes, are exercises of freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of assembly," the report says.

To facilitate the airing of grievances the report says "the university should establish an office under an independent administrator to which charges of misconduct may be brought for initial investigation and ultimately, if not resolved for submission to the university courts."

A student, however, may in exceptional circumstances first be suspended by the administration before the court has convened to hear the charge.

Such unilateral action could take place to deal with "a breach of ... the 'liberty of the campus' or ... the peace of the university."

If "the person or persons to be affected dispute their guilt or dispute that their misbehavior merits expulsion, the committee recommends that the university be entitled to impose suspension provided it simultaneously lays a charge before the university court to obtain a finding that expulsion may properly be imposed."

The committee defines the university as "a community of faculty and students dedicated to the pursuit of truth and the advancement of knowledge and a place where there is freedom to teach, freedom to engage in research, freedom to create, freedom to learn, freedom to study, freedom to speak, freedom to associate, freedom to write and to publish ..."

"A university is not a marketplace — even of ideas; it is not a ship or factory involving some kind of producer-consumer relationship between faculty and students. Nor is the university a political arena for resolving the class and party struggles of the society in which it is situated. Truth follows no political standard."

The university must "tolerate unsettling opinions," the report says.

It must also abstain from "any official doctrine or ideology. The university as a corporate community must be neutral so as to permit its members to be protagonists of widely diverse and conflicting views, except when those views are inimical to the values and purposes of the university itself."