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Unfair to place blame solely on Beach

cont'd from page 1

Beach, who said that the Advisory Council was created without his knowledge, during his recent trial on charges of financial impropriety. Beach feels that, although he was acquitted of all charges against him, Lanphier considers him guilty, and is intent on punishing him. According to College Council Treasurer, Steve Morrell, "Lanphier insinuated that (the Advisory Council was established) basically because of the trial."

Council members don't share Lanphier's concern for their apparent financial distress. "If our books are late, we also haven't asked for

mental nature of student government," Meininger said. "Nor would I be in support of it if I were."

Regardless of Lanphier's original intentions, however, this had indeed become a political battle involving personalities. In a letter to *Excalibur* last week, Beach accused Lanphier of employing high-handed tactics to "usurp control over Student Council and therefore, student funds." He blasted Meininger for being "quick to endorse Master Lanphier's questionable actions." Beach took Lanphier's moves as a personal affront, saying that "despite the fact that I was found not guilty on all counts by a York University Tribu-

own actions have reflected discredit upon Student Council and College."

This does not appear to be an issue of "systems and controls, and good practice," as Meininger would have us believe, but one of communications between a College Master and the Student Council President gone very sour. Both sides have valid arguments.

Beach did neglect to inform us in his letter that the Council has been experiencing difficulties in managing its finances for quite some time. He should recognize that financial mismanagement is a serious issue. Also, while he was acquitted of all charges against him, according to the Tribunal's decision, the complaint against him was "attributable to poor judgement on Beach's (part) and behaviour inappropriate for an elected student government representative who is in a position of high trust with respect to student funds."

On the other hand, the fact that Beach has been permitted to continue as President indicates a trust in his ability to do the job. Obviously, the Tribunal felt that Beach had learned from his mistakes. While Lanphier has a responsibility to keep an eye on Beach, there is nothing in the Tribunal's decision which suggests that Beach should be punished in any way.

If, as evidence suggests, McLaughlin's financial problems began a long time ago, it is unfair to place the blame solely on Beach's shoulders, as Lanphier has done in his letter to *Excalibur*.

The very fact that both parties saw the need to 'slug it out' in the pages of *Excalibur* is indicative of the severe breakdown in communication that has occurred. It seems unlikely that the issue can be viewed objectively by either Beach or Lanphier, thus there is little hope that the bitter feelings exhibited by both will subside as the year progresses. The bottom line is, how can McLaughlin College function effectively when key members of its administration are involved publicly in a personality conflict?

ANALYSIS

funding from the University," Morrell said. "We are operating entirely on funds left over from last year." College Council members see Lanphier's move as an attempt to take over administrative authority of the Student Council, Morrell added.

According to Provost Tom Meininger, McLaughlin's problems began long before Beach's trial. "In context, the difficulties of the financial management and reporting of the Council have been evident for quite some time," he said. "Substantial documentation exists to this effect." For example, Council's outstanding debt originated over a year ago, and has still not been accounted for.

Meininger emphasized that he was not quick to support Lanphier's actions, but after careful consideration, concluded that there was no other alternative. "(The situation) needs to be corrected," he said. Furthermore, he feels that "the issue is one of systems and controls and good practice, and not of personalities and individuals." He rejects the idea that Lanphier's actions are politically motivated. "I am not aware of any intention to alter the funda-

mental nature of student government," Meininger said. "Nor would I be in support of it if I were."

Beach argued that Lanphier's apparent attempt to strengthen McLaughlin College, "has fragmented the college, alienating the voting student membership of McLaughlin by denying them the right to self government." He also said that "attempts have been made by the Student Council to reach an equitable solution to this problem," but that "the administration has failed to respond."

Lanphier countered Beach's argument with his own letter to *Excalibur* last week (see Letters, page 4). In it, he accuses Beach of attempting to "mislead readers of *Excalibur*." He states that "There has been no attention under Beach's administration to the very kinds of careful husbanding of resources required for a budget in excess of \$50,000!" He further cites the "inability of the Student Council under Beach's direction to deal immediately and effectively with fiscal urgencies..." Finally, Lanphier claims that the establishment of the Advisory Council is "traceable to Beach's own errors," and that "his

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Revised deadlines will be set and based on providing students with a reasonable extension for attending to these concerns. The actual dates will be established and publicized once the extent of work stoppage action is known.

Students are advised to watch *Excalibur* for further details.

Office of the Registrar
October 15, 1987