

The crucial vote - why and who

Regardless of whom you support, you must vote.

The increasing power and ambitions of students representatives has made it impossible for students to remain uncommitted.

Ignorant or apparently ignorant students who make no attempt to really understand what a candidate intends to do in office will find themselves committed to whatever that candidate attempts.

Students elected by only 30 per cent of the electorate have less to fear in their term of office, because they know only 30 per cent of the students will be concerned enough to watch them in office.

The issue is this — vote or no vote, your'e in it all the way, once a clever, articulate student council starts taking this university on new courses.

If you cast no vote, you're still along for the ride. But you have no control over the driver.

Student councils elsewhere have shown how powerful they can be in relating their campuses to the real problems, even to the point of closing the campus.

Every student must vote. If he doesn't, and enough of the devoted clique of one particular candidate do support their man, that kind of council will be elected. And the entire campus for an entire year will have to abide by the actions of this minority council.

Either you vote now, and influence the kind of person who gets in, or you shut up and don't vote. But if you don't cast a vote, then stay shut up for the rest of the year, while the council in power takes you where it pleases.

Realizing the above, it is hoped York students will pick the best resources possible to lead them in the next year.

Some of the resources are here, and evidently clear. Some of these "resources" are yet to be revealed, hopefully in their candidacy speeches before the election.

Certainly the York Sunday Movement, the so-called radical group, are offering a show of enthusiasm and concern for this university which has been lacking. Yet in their printed platforms there is a vagueness of specifics and tactics to achieve what the YSM says York needs.

In examination of the YSM personalities, there is evident lack of coordination, lack of uniform approach to university government, and considerable con-

tradition between the members.

As leader of such a "slate" Mike Cohl has done an inadequate job of presenting a coherent cohesive group. His people have many ideas for reform and relevance, but their appointed leader hasn't done enough 'leading'. Such a situation casts doubt on his ability as president of YSC.

Beyond Mr. Cohl, the enthusiasm of the YSM people is worthwhile, in several cases.

His vice-presidential candidate Duncan McKie is somewhat more qualified to participate in a program of strong relevant student government. Mr. McKie will

have to prove himself, but is a lesser evil than a Masters in Business Administration candidate, already committed to a defunct form of university.

To lead the YSC EXCALIBUR suggests Paul Koster and Stuart Keeley are the most likely candidates to be both reform-minded and pragmatic enough to recognize a relevant course of action.

Too many of the candidates are unproven — none of the previous YSC members are running again. The need for attending the campaign speeches and informal conversations with all candidates is crucial in this election. If the electorate doesn't know whom it is voting for, it will not know where it is going.

And this is an essential year for York to go places.

Attend the candidates speeches. Learn their positions. And vote.

End hypocrisy - legalize marijuana

Social norms of human behaviour change relatively slowly, even when they are influenced by fashionable waves of behaviour.

Normative legislation develops even more slowly. It has been argued that this very fact ensures the individual the guarantee of his basic human rights, which are more static and less needy of constant change.

In the case of the increasing use of marijuana (and other drugs) the slow and timid response of legislators and the law-enforcement agencies warrants serious criticism.

Any first year student at York learns in his Social Science courses that a major source of deviance from a norm is the discrepancy between the value of an established norm and the constant neglect of these values by some parts of society. This discrepancy increases manifold when more and more people "get away with this deviance." This basic danger to our society, the hypocrisy of preaching one norm and executing another, can be most harmful if it is allowed to persist.

We plead for the legalization of marijuana. Our reasons are obvious. Even if one believes that individuals do not have to resort to marijuana to feel free to "do their own thing," it would be blind to suggest that this warrants the prohibition of its use. For, if the ultimate aim is to become better human beings, we can only work towards this aim by educating the individual thoroughly and un hypocritically. Education means presentation of true alternatives and actual provisions for the individuals to select according to their own rational and emotional standards.

Legislated norms should only be used to protect society, and have to be balanced against the basic rights of the individual.

Since the use of marijuana is not more dangerous for the individual or for society than the use of cigarettes, alcohol, or sex, we cannot reach any other conclusion but to legalize its use and consequently its distribution.

It is obvious that the legal distribution of marijuana will result in a higher quality and lower price of the product. Once everybody can legally use this stimulant, its use will regulate itself, and lose much of the artificial excitement and criminal implications which now surround it.

The case of hallucinatory drugs is different. We do not encourage the legalization of these drugs, because of their obvious danger to the individual user. Provision should be made for their controlled use by psychiatrists and doctors since such drugs can provide valuable clues in research.

But the problem is not solved yet: society is in dire need of complete information and education (as opposed to paternalistic guidance) on marijuana, drugs, and for that matter, on all stimulants.

A pub on campus - a sensible plan

Not everyone is likely to regard a campus pub as an indispensable aid to higher learning.

Granted, there are higher priorities in the need of this university.

And yet the social aspect of the university community is not to be discredited.

Campus planners recognize the importance of attractive coffee shops dining halls, the buttry, and common rooms. People relax when they are comfortable and when they are comfortable they talk and talk generates ideas.

Social drinking today is a fully acceptable aspect of our way of life.

Residence students at York are permitted to drink in their rooms providing the legal laws of the province are satisfied. M.B.A. and grad students serve liquor at their social functions with the

full permission of the university. Cocktails are served prior to dinners in the masters' dining halls.

Surely the next step is the institution of a licensed premises on campus — an informal meeting place for faculty, grads and undergrads.

The over-21 requirement of the Liquor Act could be easily satisfied by restricting admittance to members only, membership being obtained by presenting identification plus the York student I.D. card bearing the photograph of the applicant.

The controversy regarding pubs on campus — once so strong on university campuses — has long since died down. MacMaster has one. Waterloo has one. Western has one. Guelph is getting one.

Let's hope that York will be next.

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