THE RESIDENCE CRISIS

A staff project coordinated by Harvey Margel and Ron Graham

The Founders' Residence Council has been stripped of its disciplinary powers. On Friday, Jan. 13th, a letter to this effect was distributed to all residence students by Dr. James Cutt, Senior Tutor. The letter has caused an uproar among students and their councils, unequaled in the one and a half year life of the College.

Herewith, is the letter reprinted verbatim:

TO: ALL RESIDENT STUDENTS

FROM: J. CUTT, SENIOR TUTOR, L. NEWMARCH, SENIOR WOMAN DON.

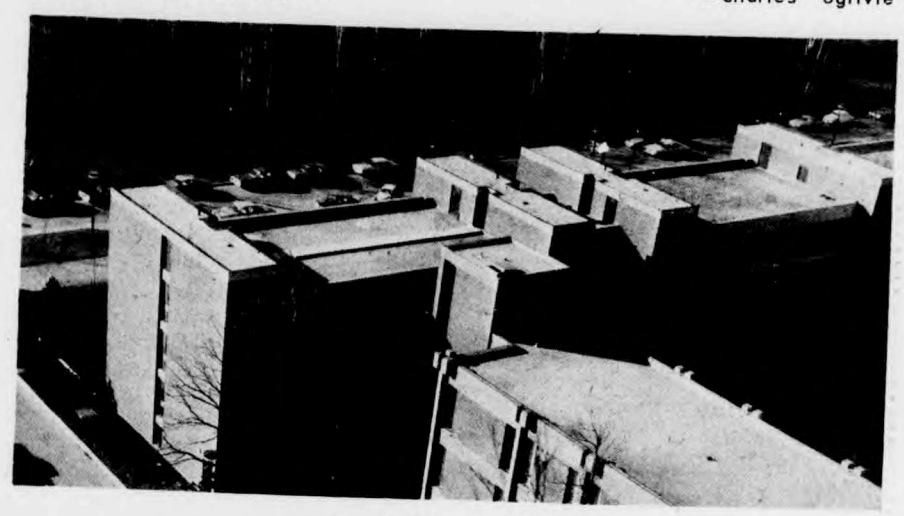
At the beginning of this year it was stated that the Dons' role was disciplinary only be default and that primary responsibility for enforcing rules lay with the House Executives and the students themselves.

Default has occurred. It has become apparent that, in general, students have failed to discharge this responsibility. Therefore the Dons have decided to assume the primary, direct responsibility for the enforcement of rules. The Dons will enforce rigorously the structure of rules set up by the Residence Council in January 1966, and can, if necessary, expel any student from the residence. As a first measure the Committee of Dons, composed of the House Dons, Senior Woman Don and Senior Tutor, decided that in view of his persistent disregard for residence rules, and his attitude to the role of the Dons, Mr. Fred Holmes is denied access under any circumstances whatsoever to Founders Residence for the remainder of this session.

This revision of method to achieve the objectives of residence life has been courted by the students. It is our hope that sometime in the future the students will be willing, and able, to resume the responsibility which they initially requested and agreed to discharge.

FOUNDERS RESIDENCE

--charles ogilvie



double double, toil and trouble
founders burns and cutt bubbles

OPINION

COUNCILS IN DANGER?

by Harvey Margel

In view of the steps taken by administration with regards to resident government, I feel that the implications suggested by this move should be clarified.

An elected student body (Residence Council) was considered irresponsible in its administration and dissolved. This could imply that another student body (Founders College Council or Vanier College Council) in the future could also be considered irresponsible and possibly dissolved.

An implication is drawn here and not a parallel between Residence Council and College Councils. The point of issue is the technique that was taken to assert authority--arbitrary. Since we are all governed by the same administration, that same administration could assert its authority in College councils also--arbitrarily.

I would like to ask the administration if they will not use the same line of reasoning to justify abolishing councils if they get too far out of line by calling them irresponsible.

The second implication regards the Student Court of Founders College. In a joint session with Residence Council on the issue of Fred Holmes, the Student Court due to inclusive evidence, dismissed the injunction against him. But in a letter issued by Mr. Cutt on Friday 13th, Fred Holmes was expelled for the remainder of the year from residence. In other words, they found him guilty and acted. Due to the fact that both the Student Court and Residence Council in a joint

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Several factors are known to have precipitated this action by the Dons. Of late, the Administration, ACSA (The Advisory Committee on Student Affairs), and the Dons have been much concerned with the possibility that an apparent drug crisis exists on campus. (Mr. Cutt has stated that any student caught using drugs on campus will be immediately expelled.) The Excalibur has been investigating for several months the apparent

--clark hill

JOHN CONWAY,
MASTER OF FOUNDERS COLLEGE

Yes Virginia, there is a foundation

drug crisis and intends to publish shortly the results of its inquiry as soon as all pertinent information has been collated and full implications of this situation can be more completely ascertained.

The Dons have also been concerned with the behaviour of the students with regard to visiting hour regulations. Even though the students have a total of 45 hours per week of visiting hours distributed throughout the week with 33 hours over the weekend, it appears that many students have on their own extended these hours. The Dons are intent on curbing these violations of the visiting regulations.

The Committee of Dons also feels that drinking in residence is getting out of hand. In the past, the Dons have not attempted to enforce the Ontario Liquor Act within residence. However, in the light of recent student behaviour it appears such enforcement may be forthcoming.

Above all, the Dons object to the noise in residence, which it appears, they feel, is above a level conducive to study.

STUDENT SAY

In order to determine residence student attitude of the situation in the Houses, the EXCALIBUR has taken a survey of residence students asking pertinent questions relating to the letter circulated by the Committee of Dons. 71 students were polled in both the men's and Women's residence. We feel this represents an adequate cross-section of the 240 students in residence.

The questions asked and the results obtained are listed below.

QUESTION #1
Do you feel that the students, in general, have failed to discharge their responsibility for disciplining themselves?
Yes: 55% No: 40% No opinion: 5%

QUESTION #2
Do you feel that residence student behaviour has been, in general, irresponsible?
Yes: 34% No: 59% No opinion: 7%

QUESTION #3
Do you feel the acquisition of the Residence Council Disciplinary Powers by the Dons is the best policy?
Yes: 20% No: 68% No opinion: 12%

QUESTION #4
The Dons have said that they will 'if necessary, expel any student' in order to 'enforce rigorously the structure of rules'. In view of the fact that the phrase 'if necessary' is undefined, do you feel this is a just system of discipline?
Yes: 25% No: 65% No opinion: 10%

QUESTION #5
Do you feel that the Dons should be able to prevent by expulsion any student from visiting a friend in residence by invitation? (i.e. do you feel that this is an imposition of the community upon the preference or taste of an individual resident student? This question assumes, of course, that 'by invitation' means that the resident student assumes responsibility for his guest.)
Yes: 36% No: 42% No opinion: 22%

QUESTION #6
a) Who do you feel should be accountable for a student's behaviour: the student, the residence council, the Dons, society, a combination of factors or people?
b) Note here, that the Dons assume that they are ultimately responsible. Do you agree?
6a: student: 49% res. council: 6% Don: 1% combination: 45%
6b: Yes: 27% No: 55% No opinion: 18%

QUESTION #7
Do you feel the Dons acted too hastily in assuming all disciplinary powers?
Yes: 48% No: 29% No opinion: 23%

QUESTION #8
This final question takes the form of a petition. Sign if you feel that the Disciplinary powers assumed by the Dons should be returned to the Residence Council.
54% of those asked to sign (approximately 70 students were asked), signed.

From question one, it is obvious that students feel that they have not kept themselves in line. Although 59% feel that life in residence has been irresponsible, the fact that 34% disagree indicates that a fair measure of irresponsibility does exist.

Question three shows that, by 3 to 1, students disagreed with the Dons' policy as set down by the letter. Question four indicates that the students are most concerned with the apparent injustice of the new system (whereby the student is no longer tried by the Residence Council composed of Dons and House Presidents but subject directly to the discipline put down by the Dons). Moreover, the response to question seven reveals that the majority of students believe that the Dons acted too hastily.

In as much as the Dons feel that they have the ultimate responsibility, the students almost totally disagree. They feel that the accountability for student behaviour lies primarily with them (49% student) but that some measure of responsibility does lie with the Dons (45% combination).

In reference to question five, the Friday 13 letter stated that, Fred Holmes, a student expelled from residence, is 'denied access under any circumstances whatsoever'. However, 42% of the students polled (with 22% no opinion) felt that they should be allowed to invite on their own responsibility an expelled student into the residence. The EXCALIBUR feels that the percentage of 'NOs' would be higher if the question had specified private residence rooms, as opposed to the whole residence.

Finally, 54% of the students interviewed were willing to sign a petition asking for the assumed powers of the Dons to be returned to the Residence Council.

EXCALIBUR and the residence students are waiting to see how the Dons and the Residence Council will react to this survey, and what action will be forthcoming.

--clark hill

JIM CUTT, SENIOR TUTOR
FOUNDERS RESIDENCE

...Is there, by golly?