

BY ROBERT CASTLE

The time is ripe to curtail power of College Masters

When York student government was set up by the University over twenty years ago, it was based on the collegiate model. Colleges were designed to be small communities of 1,000 to 1,500 students which would foster interaction between the faculty, the fellows,

and the students. Student government was established to model this relationship and therefore included both students and college administrators, namely the masters.

The ideal of interaction was never realised because fiscal reality severely limited the noble intentions of the colleges—only half were built to service a community almost twice as large. Instead, we have a situation where the majority of college masters treat their individual colleges as tiny fiefdoms over which they exercise undue influence and authority.

Student governments oversee vast budgets designed to bring services to their constituencies and to the York community at large. The critical phrase, of course, is *student* government. Remember that the funding for these activities is from you directly. Each York student pays \$46 annually toward student government—\$27.50 to their college and \$18.50 to CYSF. The expenditure of this money should be in the hands of student representatives alone. But such is not the case. Many masters have the authority to meddle directly into the financial affairs of the college council. Indeed, in Winters College, the master co-signs the council cheques.

This sort of direct interference should be stopped. If President Arthurs or Provost Meininger were voting members of CYSF or if they had a potential veto over the finan-

cial affairs of the Council many would decry this as unwarranted Administration interference. The same needs to be said about most college councils.

Not all the colleges, though, are the same. At least two colleges, Founders and Vanier, have a strong and admirable tradition of non-interfering masters. Theirs is an example to which all colleges should turn. But we should go further still to address certain questions concerning the nature and purpose of student government.

Student government is designed primarily to provide services run by students to their constituents. A critical corollary to this is the training and experience it provides, not only to those directly involved in councils and associations, but also to all students in general who should be closely watching the expenditure of their money.

In all my experience in student government over the years, I have never before come across councils where senior and middle administrators directly play an official role in the affairs of students. With the present reviews of student government and the college system underway, the time seems ripe to remove all administrators from college councils and executives and to hand student government over to those for whom it should be intended: the students.

cont'd from p. 5

people want to look at it. If no one had decided to retire in my Party, the media would be saying, "There's Grossman, he's got all the same old people, he's been unable to renew his caucus, he's going back to the people with the same gang that was there for 42 years." If I have a dozen people leaving, then people like to go the other way. They like to say, "Oh, everyone's abandoning him, his chances are crippled." There's no question I wish Dennis were running again but the flipside of the coin is that we're going to get some very good people running in ridings that are relatively strong.

EXCAL: Do you feel a free trade agreement with the United States would be beneficial for Ontario?

GROSSMAN: Freer trade may have large benefits for Canada and Ontario but one cannot know until you see what deal is available. I believe a deal is important. If you don't have a deal, you're going to get more soft-wood lumber tariffs put on, tariffs all across the board by a Democratically controlled American Congress and a new President. Anyone who has been anywhere close to that scene will have to agree that the Americans are going to put on more protectionist measures. If you get a freer trade agreement, then you cut yourself out from those protectionist sentiments.

Is there a freer trade arrangement available? One doesn't know but you go to the table and see what you have to give in order to get what you need. We must, unlike Peterson, go and try to make a deal and if it isn't good, don't sign it.

EXCAL: What has to be present in a freer trade agreement so you and your Party will accept it?

GROSSMAN: You have to look across

the sectors and say, "Is Ontario likely to benefit from the access it's getting to 250 million people and are the industries that are getting access likely to be able to compete, given the impact some competition will have on them. Secondly, any deal had to have, perhaps, a 10 year phase-in to allow the adjustments to be made, so you don't have to pay a big price. That's the way GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) deals are implemented.

EXCAL: Are you willing to put the Auto Pact on the table?

GROSSMAN: No. I know Peterson is playing this game but I think we've succeeded in ending it when I said to him, "Can you name me one Canadian who thinks the Auto Pact should be put on the table?"

The Americans can terminate the Auto Pact at any time. It can be terminated on one year's notice unilaterally by either side, whether there are free trade talks going on or not. That's why this whole auto Pact discussion is one huge red herring, being played by Bob White (the head of the Canadian Auto Workers union), the Americans, the opponents in Canada of a freer trade agreement, and Peterson when it suits his agenda.

EXCAL: Why would Peterson do this?

GROSSMAN: Because he wants to pose as the only defender of the Auto Pact, and he wants to undermine the freer trade discussions. He knows that one of the ways to do that is to raise the Auto Pact red herring but in point of fact, the Americans can just write a letter any day and terminate the Auto Pact. And the politicians in Canada who do what Mr. Peterson does, which is talk carelessly about the Auto Pact, are precisely the ones who encourage that sort of unilateral

action by the Americans.

EXCAL: What are your views on government-run no-fault auto insurance schemes?

GROSSMAN: If you like the Post Office, you'll love government-run automobile insurance.

EXCAL: Government run insurance schemes in a number of Western provinces have been very successful in keeping premiums low because they are non-profit . . .

GROSSMAN: Oh, really. In my view, if you bring in government-run auto insurance, which bureaucrat is going to run it more effectively than the private sector? Secondly, the experience out west is patently clear that when it is politically inconvenient to raise rates, they're not raised.

Can you imagine Peterson sending out Monte Kwinter (Minister of Commercial and Consumer Affairs) a month before an election to say, "Sorry friends, your auto rates have to go up 10 percent?" Of course he won't. If you keep the premiums down artificially there's only one person who ends up paying for it, the good old taxpayer. And when the taxpayer pays for it, it means 500,000 senior citizens who do not drive a car will be paying the rates for thousands of people who are driving.

EXCAL: Would you like to see an industry run no-fault scheme?

GROSSMAN: I think an expansion of no-fault, a rate regulation system and a lot better policing of the insurance industry and related sectors is the way to go . . . The insurance industry is to blame for a lot of the problem (skyrocketing premiums). The question is do you punish the public for the sins of the insurers or do you try to fix the problem.

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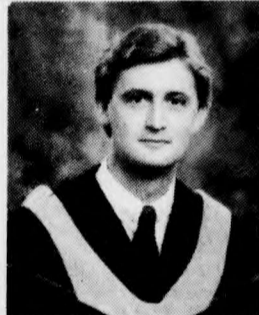
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