

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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A philosopher - king, or just plain king?

So what if Dale Ritch, the man most responsible for voicing the views of York students to the outside world and to the university administration, is not a student?

As Ritch rightly points out, being president of CYSF is a full-time occupation, taking up between 50 and 60 hours a week. Because of this fact, and because he is ipso facto the leading representative of the York student community, Ritch is within his rights to demand that he be given a seat in the senate.

What should concern this community, though, is not that Ritch is not a student now, but that he was such a miserable student when he was one.

Because passing subjects at York hardly requires the intelligence of an Einstein, and because Ritch is not by any means a stupid man, disinterest would seem the only logical explanation of how Ritch could have flunked enough courses to merit being barred from studying in any Canadian university for two years.

It is a fair question to ask what justification Ritch uses for saying he represents the students of this university, who have, it is reasonable to assume, made some commitment to education.

Ritch may have been a student for four years, but that hardly counts for much if those years were never taken seriously.

While Ritch will stand or fall on his record, one must wonder if the lure of York involves education or politics.

Joseph K. at York

One would not blame the York professor who, after submitting his case for tenure, feels himself gradually sinking into a Kafka-esque nightmare. His case is formally out of his hands but he may, at any time, be called upon to clarify a certain area or bolster his evidence or submit an appeal.

Slowly, his case winds its way from the department committee to the faculty committee to the dean's office to the senate committee and finally to the president's office. Like descending stairs to the underworld.

His life's work is picked at and chewed over in dimly-lit conference rooms hidden in the bowels of god-knows-what building. Witch-doctor word-games are played with his career: this is "competent" but not "superior"; that is "superior" but not "excellent"; this man is "promising" but he'll have to wait.

Why the mantle of darkness and mystery? Confidentiality is one thing, but this annual melodrama is grotesque.

Senate tenure and promotions committee chairman Graeme McKechnie said this week that sitting in judgement upon one's colleagues is "not a matter to be taken lightly."

Obviously not. But there must be room for a little air and conversation.

This year, the senate tenure committee gave a "delay recommendation" (a newspeak phrase if ever there was one) to a professor from Atkinson because there was insufficient "raw data" on his file. Perhaps the committee didn't notice that this "raw data" was available from the office of the dean and that this availability was noted on the file.

Or, perhaps there are rules against checking things out in an open, honest way.

Fortunately, the professor in question was able to successfully appeal the decision.

But was the ordeal necessary?

This month we start the eery process all over again, with a new crop of candidates. And no birds sing.



"We are gathered here today, to discuss the future of universities..."

Letters to the Editor

There's more to York than food

It would appear to this student that the CYSF could have found a more relevant issue than food with which to confront the York administration. This letter is not to deny that there is a need for improvement in the food services on campus but rather to point out that the CYSF, as the representative of the student body, should re-examine its priorities.

Existing university policies, such as the hiring of educators, tenure decisions and compulsory first year courses, on which the students have only token influence, would seem to be more important issues on which to take a stand. From the extremely poor turn-out at the food boycott rally and the general lack of interest in it, it is apparent that Dale Ritch and his comrades are already alienating the student body.

If the CYSF hopes to have any credibility in the eyes of students and administration alike, it should stop thinking with its stomach and start using some "smarts".

Mike Clarke

Parking fee

I must take issue with allegations made by Mr. Dale Ritch at the recent mass meetings held in connection with the Food Service that the university is using the device of increasing parking fees inter alia as an alternative to in-

creasing tuition fees.

The parking operation is required to be entirely self-sustaining; this includes paying for the construction of new lots, as well as the maintenance and repair of existing lots. Income is derived entirely from fees paid by the users of parking facilities and if there is a surplus in any given year this is used exclusively for the repair and improvement of lots and the maintenance of fees at the lowest possible level.

The increase in parking fees in 1975-76, which amounted to \$25. for users of reserved lots and \$10. for those using unreserved lots was recommended to the president by the advisory committee on parking after a careful study of the proposed parking budget (a major component of which is the salaries and wages of staff, which have increased substantially since the last fee increase in 1971-72).

One of the expressed concerns of the committee, which is composed of equal numbers of students, faculty and staff, was that the new fee structure recommended would bring in insufficient revenue to pay for the large-scale repairs to the older parking lots which were recommended by the university engineering staff. The committee decided, however, to budget only a small sum for repairs this year, and to endeavour to maintain the present fees for a minimum of two years.

At the risk of being repetitive, I repeat that funds derived from parking are not

used for other purposes, and if there is any surplus at the end of the current fiscal year it will be utilized to do essential maintenance work which has been postponed because of the efforts of the committee to provide parking as inexpensively as possible.

I spoke to Mr. Ritch several months ago after he had indicated an interest in the parking budget and I suggested that if he or one of his associates wished to come to my office I would be happy to discuss it and explain it to them. To date no-one has appeared.

C.G. Dunn,
Director of Safety
and Security Services

Solidarity

The Glendon College Students' Union strongly urges every student at York University to support the actions of the CYSF in attempting to receive justice for its food service workers. The union-dissolving activities of the university must clearly come to an end. We sincerely hope that the temporary boycott of certain food services at York will show the determination of students to help restore the rights and the positions of workers who were fired on account of their involvement with the union.

Yours in solidarity, And injury to one is the concern of all.
The Glendon College Students' Union.

EXCALIBUR

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