

Excalibur

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A funny thing happened to me on the way to 22 Sussex Street.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Howard Nemptin

In February of 1966 fourteen people took office in Founders College Student Council. Only the President was experienced in university government; the rest were novices. Since then a lot has happened to Founders College and much of it is due to the workings of these fourteen.

Too many students have blindly criticised the council for not fulfilling the wants of the college member. Too many students fail to open their eyes and see what exactly this college and this university make available for the use of each York citizen. Too many students make their first year of University into 'grade fourteen' of High School.

In this year the council has passed a formal constitution and by-law structure; we've formulated an election act that will introduce a little originality and a much broader scope into future councils. We've stimulated and financed clubs on campus; we've acquired a Hi-Fi, a Jet Spray unit and the use of a Founders College car. York has the best institutional food of any school kitchen in Canada and it is not by coincidence; rather it is through mature negotiation with food service authorities. A full awards programme will go into effect this year through the workings of council. A student-fellows liaison committee sits frequently to solve problems of mutual concern in the college. A student court is alive and functioning (contrary to sadly misinformed sources at PRO-TEM). Our coffee house will present a Gala new face to the students of Founders and will be 'open for business' by the first week of February. Bulletin boards have been acquired, the entire ground floor of the college is now under complete control of the council. (Except for the dining hall which is controlled by joint student-fellow committee). In the near future the hall across from the Council office will be completely revamped to make it more functional for student use. If your interest is athletics Don Irwin and Sandy Shimada have made

available through hard work a complete intra-mural programme. I could go on and on but let me take some space to answer a few of your 'beefs'.

Founders College lost \$700.00 on the John Lee Hooker 'fiasco'. We are guilty in failing to properly evaluate the social wants in the college. It is not an uncommon mistake, Glendon recently lost \$1700.00 for the same failure in judgement. I partially blame you the student for the Hooker incident. You have shown little or no interest with what council has done. You have failed to express your like or dislike of councils policies. We cannot pick you up and carry you to Burton Auditorium. We can only offer you the best we possibly can and await your response and suggestions.

The next council will have a full list of suggestions from our council on how to implement a college social programme. Unfortunately you made us learn the hard way.

For those financial critics among you, the council is leaving the new council in very solid shape financially. They will have over half the budget left, about \$4000.

The council has established this year a fine rapport with university officials. Founders college council is a name that is respected in the university community and is one that brings results and action. The attitude of our members have stimulated the action the administration is now taking in the positive direction of student democracy. York students, Founders students have sat and will continue to sit on Joint Board--Senate bodies, building commissions, college finance board and the future looks bright for seats on further bodies.

We've had our problems but we've started a ball rolling. We leave office and it's up to you, dammit, not to let the work we've done go uncontinued. We don't want glory, we don't want newspaper tributes we just want you the student to start being a responsible member of Founders College.

EDITORIAL

Strong S.R.C.

A WISE CHOICE

The January 22nd meeting of student councillors and interested students made a wise choice in deciding not only to continue the S.R.C. in its present form, but to, in addition, give it the autonomy it needs.

It was heartening to see that the meeting voted down 13-4 Vanier's proposal to remake the S.R.C. into a service committee controlled by the different colleges. The Vanier proposal would, if accepted and carried out, have created a situation not unlike that the councils endured this year. A situation in which the S.R.C. could not carry out any legislation without first looking over its back to see if it had the support of the individual college councils as the colleges retained control of the purse-strings and exhibited a frightening tendency to meddle vainly in S.R.C. affairs. Unfortunately, the S.R.C. was not up to the demands put on it by the college councils.

It is now up to the committee created by the January 22nd meeting to clearly delineate the powers of next year's S.R.C. The committee must make it quite clear that the new S.R.C. has complete control of external affairs and negotiations with the Administration on university wide matters. In this regard it must be completely autonomous of the college councils. If it were not independent, its own ability to provide leadership would be sapped and the college councils would fruitlessly waste time embroiling themselves in matters which can

be handled more efficiently and effectively by an independent S.R.C.

The committee should also ensure that the S.R.C. can initiate university-wide social and cultural events (such as Homecoming and Winter Carnival) without approval of the college councils.

The S.R.C. should also have control over any committee set up to recognize and coordinate university wide clubs. The York Debating Society's success shows that this is necessary inasmuch as the Society may make a great deal of money out of the debate yet, at this time, there is no student council which is responsible for seeing that they do not in the future misuse their revenue.

You may think that such powers for the S.R.C. will mean that the College will have nothing to do but organize dances and manage coffee shops. Not so. The whole idea of granting the S.R.C. effective powers is to enable it to operate efficiently. The colleges will still have a responsibility to foster a better intellectual, social and cultural spirit in their colleges. What the committee hopefully will ensure is that the colleges will not destroy the ability of a university-wide student council to act effectively in the students' interests.

Vanier College Council has all along opposed the creation of a strong S.R.C. Now that Vanier has been voted down, it is hoped that it, along with the other councils, will work hard to build a strong S.R.C.

LETTERS

Dear Sirs,

Perhaps it was too much to hope for that anything would be accomplished at the meeting of the Glendon College student council with Mr. Henry Best, the President's executive assistant, except for those who attended with the sole purpose of snickering through everything Mr. Best had to say. However, I came away with two opinions which I would like to express here.

Much of the talk was about the 'secrecy' of those infamous A.C.S.A. meetings held last term. To call those meetings secret is

to show off to worst advantage a glaring trait of ignorance and immaturity: the setting up of straw men. As if some people had no other causes to fight for than those which they manufacture in their imaginations! A.C.S.A. meetings were held in camera, not in secret; a matter which Mr. Best adequately justified last Tuesday.

I am not arguing here for or against the structure or the function of that committee, but I would like to see a more mature attitude displayed in the recognition of conditions for what they

are, not for what you set them up to be for the sake of having something to beef about.

My second point is this. Jim MacDonald, Glendon College student council president, called upon the administration to practise what it preached in the moulding of a community of scholars, with reference to the opening up of A.C.S.A. meetings in the interests of democracy. But why not teach by example? Why not open up college council meetings on the lines of this last discussion with the administration?

There are certain matters of

mutual concern to students, faculty, and administration, and others which concern only one group to the exclusion of the others. I believe that, in the former matters, the interests of everyone, especially students, would be better served if policy decisions were reached after open debate. Meetings should be convened when sufficient notice has been given of the topics to be discussed, to allow everyone with an opinion to formulate it concisely and express it openly. Motions should be tabled, proposed and opposed, opened to the floor, and voted on by all affected by them.

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