

Excalibur

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

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Greek dictatorship same old game

Recent events in Greece have destroyed the dearly-held American myth that a good right-wing dictatorship, as opposed to a leftist government, means stability, a sound economy and a nice safe place to put your military bases.

It has long been a truism of American foreign policy that good conservative dictatorships make valuable political allies. Such governments become conveniently dependent on American good will, military muscle and economic aid. Democracy's fine in theory, as long as the right elements take part in it.

Hence the sick international joke: A democratically-elected, though admittedly leftist, government in Chile gets kicked in the teeth by our southern neighbours, while a vicious little dictatorship in Greece gets anything it wants in the way of military and economic aid.

Dictatorships, though, are even nicer to deal with, and make more comfor-

table partners when they're cleaned up a little. This explains why George Papadopoulos got out his broom and swept out some political prisoners, after they had been well-tortured of course, and why he placed a respected politician in the largely ceremonial role of premier.

After all, old George wanted to get into the Common Market and it just wouldn't do to have a messy dictatorship. Countries like Sweden, Holland and Denmark frown on such things. He even rigged a referendum to set himself up as president, proving how anxious he was to be loved by all.

But the Greek leader went a little too far in his bid for a Nobel prize. When some university students at the Polytechnic Institute started a move to seize the campus, Papadopoulos did not move in his troops. When the government finally did realize that the people were seeking nothing less than its complete destruction, it moved in tanks and armoured troop carriers.

This spelled the end of the line for old George, as any political observer could have told him. He just got too "liberal" for some of the ultra-conservatives in the Greek Army. Worse than that, his tanks created a bad impression when they ran down university gates in Athens.

The U.S. will recognize the new regime. Only the players have changed, not the game. At least now, though, it can't pretend Greece is really a stable democracy in disguise, if anybody really believed that anyway.

Michael Lawrence

Student gov't policies must change

After being politely reprimanded (see Letters to the Editor), let me once again timidly approach the question of CYSF policy towards campus organizations.

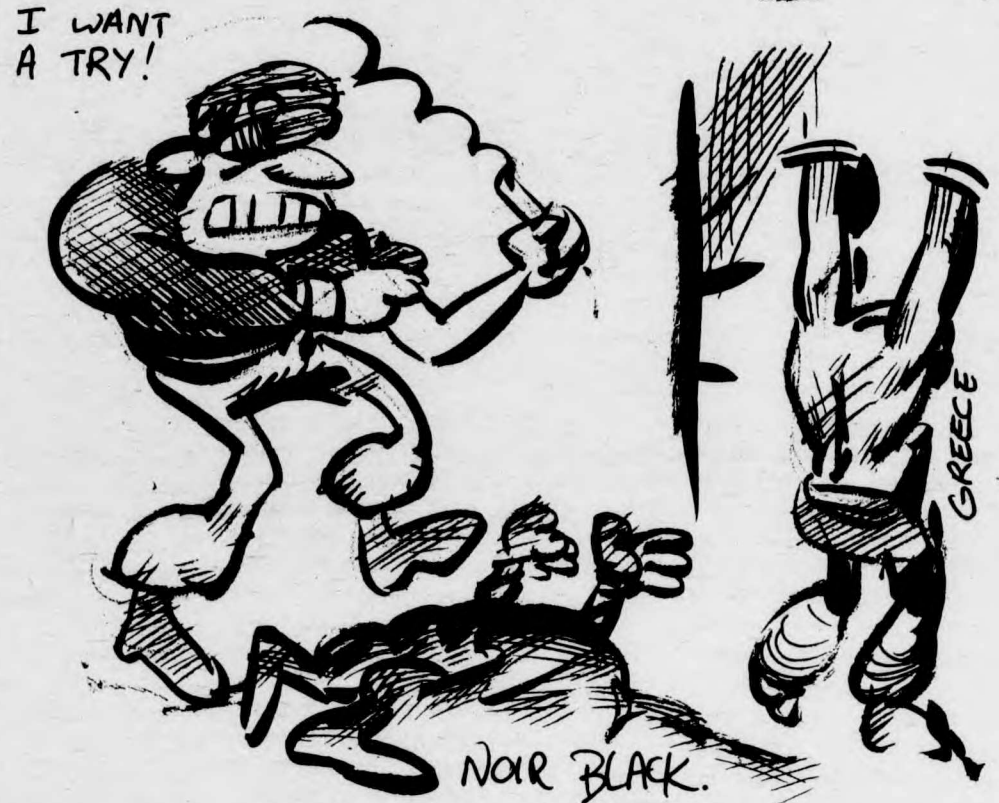
Out of a total operating budget of almost \$100,000, CYSF granted only \$2,500 to be divided among more than 20 campus groups. To put this figure in even better perspective, consider these two figures. The total club operating grant is less than half of President Mouritsen's personal salary. Other information worth examining is past council's grants to clubs. Only three years ago, council found it valid to grant \$6,000 to one single club, the debating society consisting of four individuals.

It seems clear that council's present attitude towards recognized campus organizations has taken a tight turn for the worse.

At a meeting I attended this week, executives of these campus organizations made it clear they were highly dissatisfied with the present situation. Though these individuals represented, in some cases, extreme differences in their group philosophies, they all agreed on one point: A major change must take place in council's flippant attitude to valuable community groups.

Future group confrontation with the council executive seems inevitable.

The complaint is not only of a financial nature. As I mentioned last week, council, through grant policies it has established, puts itself in the dangerous position of en-



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couraging or discouraging any group on campus. It seems clear to me that council's decision to fund the Black People's Movement is in contradiction to their own policy.

The danger of such an action is that it allows council to exercise a discretionary power that it should not have.

Though I was accused of being an "efficient militant", let me state that my major concern for the funding of the BPM was not a personal objection to that group's actions, but a fear that council had built itself a machinery, enabling undue power of decision. The funding of the BPM was only an example of bad faith of the sort practiced by council.

Why council feels it so necessary to protect the student body from any political group is a mystery to me and certainly to many others. The fact that the BPM, the Chinese Students Association, the Lithuanian Club, fact that these groups, as well as every other organization receiving funding, were forced to justify their programmes to council, is the real complaint.

If CYSF feels clubs should be founded in relation to the community service they perform, then the same standards should be applied to council as well.

Unfortunately for Mouritsen et al., within the terms applied to clubs, council would receive three pieces of chewing gum.

Council's disdain for campus groups, as reflected by its funding procedure, is only one small part of a growing list of complaints

against an administrative system that is redundant, expensive and non-productive. When a group can fizzle away \$100,000, it is a clear demonstration of irresponsibility to a student body it pretends to represent.

The time has come to stop making piecemeal criticisms of council. A new system of student representation is desperately needed; a system that will not allow a student president to sit and gloat in his office, a system that will not allow junior politicians to play a grand style Monopoly game with other people's real money.

York has a college system that has never fulfilled its birthright. Let it then. A student government based on a forum type, with representatives of each college meeting face to face, is far preferable to the present system, where council's power lies in an executive which feels it unnecessary to answer to anyone but itself.

Students' apathy towards their government body is in some sense justified. The feeling that it doesn't make a difference who is sitting or what is being done is, at the present, sadly true.

Each one of us has the right to demand that this kind of nonsense come to an end. And together we have the power to see to it.

President Mouritsen knows better than any one that the council stands only as long as the administration allows it to.

As soon as Mr. Mouritsen's chums fear he no longer runs a tight ship, he will go by the wayside.

The ships is ours and it is high time for a mutiny.