

# PRO TEM



*The Student Weekly of York University*

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VOLUME IV, EXTRA

TORONTO CANADA

MARCH 28/65

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## STUDENT COURT ELECTIONS

9:30 - 3:30

## STUDENT COURT ELECTIONS TODAY...

Elections for five student court judges are to take place today. It is important that the Student Union gain the background knowledge necessary to cast an intelligent vote. With this in mind we feel it is the responsibility of the PRO-TEM to clarify some of the issues involving the role and structure of the Student Court.

### STRUCTURE:

From the nominations received from any member of the Student Union, the Student Council selects a slate of 10 candidates. From these ten candidates for Court judge, the Student Union elects five to constitute the board. The candidates who rank 6th and 7th are designated as auxiliary judges to take the bench should one of the original five elected be unable to sit in a case. The five elected to the bench choose their own Chief Justice.

### JURISDICTION:

The Court is at present responsible for trying all complaints which are violations of rules passed by the Student Council and approved by the Committee on Student Affairs. The rules and regulations passed by the Council are found in the Aardvark, and are many and varied. The Court however does not have jurisdiction over the "Regulations Promulgated by the University" (See Section #7, Page 19, Aardvark) although the Student Council has pressed for jurisdiction in this area. These regulations include liquor violations, library violations and motor vehicle violations (for which a student last year was rusticated by the University). It is still a matter of debate between the Student Council and the Committee on Student Affairs as to whether the Court of the Committee shall have jurisdiction over violations which do not fall under the rules and regulations in Aardvark.

### POWERS:

The court can levy the following penalties:  
In addition to restitution or replacement costs in cases of damage, punishment can consist of:

- a) withdrawal of Student Union privileges,
- b) fines up to \$50.00
- c) recommended rustication
- d) recommended expulsion.

Appeals of Student Court decisions are to be directed to the Committee on Student Affairs.

### VERY IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS FACTS:

1.) Since the Student Court is to function as a Court of Justice and not exclusively as a Court of Law, it need not be bound by precedent in prescribing penalties.

2) Mr. George Howden (III) has criticized "our illustrious but inactive Student Court" (Election Assembly, March 4/65). It is no criticism of the Student Court that it has never sat; it has never construed itself as a police force seeking violations.

The fact that we have not needed it is reflected in the fact that no major violations of rules have taken place this year.

3) The Council has insisted that the Student Court is an independent body serving the needs of the entire university; it is emphatically not just an arm of the Student Council (See the Council's Brief to the Committee on Student Affairs, October/64). The Committee has in turn felt that if the Court really was such an independent body, then it would have to have faculty representation on the bench. There are arguments both for and against a faculty-student court and this idea has been suggested to members of the Council. The argument is not whether the Student Court ought to be independent of the Council (for students are agreed that it should be) but how the Court's structure ought to be changed in order to make it truly independent.

4) The people who sit on the Student Court must be persons of common sense and discretion; they must be looked to by the Student Union as being students of more than usual maturity.

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## AND THEN I LEARNED TO WRITE DEP'T...

Dear Sirs,

I have due respect for the commonsense and manners displayed by the majority of students at York. However there is one particular habit which is particularly irksome, vulgar, and absolutely uncalled for -- the butting of cigarettes in the water fountains of the library. I prefer my water without nicotine, thanks. The solution lies in either one of two courses:

- (a) either smoking must be rigidly banned from the basement of the library,
- (b) or a compromise arrangement could be reached ---viz., an ashtray.

As yet the problem is not too far out of hand -- however the purpose of this writer is to draw the attention of individuals and institutions concerned to the existence of this practice which is not pleasing to all members of the University community.

Gordon Andrews (III)

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## SO YOU WANT TO VOTE...

Today, from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm, students will be casting their ballots to elect the five Student Court judges for 1965-66. I do not expect the turnout to be nearly as large as that which was witnessed at this year's Student Union Elections when 70% of the Student Body cast their ballots. It may seem paradoxical, but I will be most shocked and distressed if more than 10% of the student body were to exercise their franchise today.

I hope my intentions will not be misunderstood. The high turnout for the Student Union Elections was justified by the interest shown in the campaign and the candidates. I am certain that the candidates at that time will agree that it was a pleasant and heartening surprise to see the Dining Hall filled for the election assemblies. Speaking personally, the attendance at the assemblies restored my faith in the awareness and concern of the student body for student government. In most cases the victories were won by only a narrow margin, but the voters knew the candidates and were aware of what they were voting for.

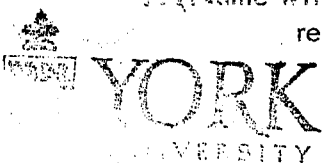
It can hardly be said that this is the case for today's election. Yesterday, from 2:30-4:00, a "Meet the Candidates Tea" was held in the Junior Common Room. On this occasion, the candidates introduced themselves and described their background and qualifications and then were questioned by the students on any relevant matters. Those present were given the chance not only to learn the policies of the candidates but also to become aware of their personalities which is an important criterion in judging those who seek a position on the Student Court.

However, there were only thirty-five students at the tea including the ten candidates. This is roughly 5% of the student body. Perhaps among the student union there are another thirty-five students who have met all ten candidates and know their qualifications, and views. This brings the total number of informed students to 10%. How many students then will flash their ATL card, pick up a ballot and cast their vote with no intelligent criteria as their guide?

If a finger is to be pointed, it should be directed towards the freshmen. They comprise 50% of the student body and thus control the balance of power behind the votes. Only one of the ten candidates is in first year and yet the freshmen have made no effort to become acquainted with the candidates who complete the ballot and who, for the most part, are unknown to them.

To bring my argument to its logical conclusion, the greatest service that 90% of the students can render to York today is to refrain from voting and to allow that 10% which is aware of the issues and the merits of the candidates, to choose the members of the next Student Court.

(Name withheld at author's request)



## STUDENT COUNCIL HONOUR AWARDS...

Each year the Student Council presents awards to graduating students who have made significant contributions to the university through academic achievement, athletics, club memberships, literary and cultural endeavours, and student government. All these fields however, do not carry equal weight; for example cultural endeavours are considered of more merit than athletics.

Participation is only the basic qualification for nomination for an award. What the awards committee looks for is leadership and a contribution that is felt by the students of the university.

The executive of the Student Council determines the maximum number of awards to be presented each year and distributes nomination forms to the graduating class. The awards committee is composed of the Director of Athletics, the Dean of Students, a faculty adviser to the Student Council, the President of the University or his designate, the President of the Student Council, the Second Year Representative to the Student Council, the Women's Athletic Representative and the Editor of the student newspaper. This year the Student Council executive decided that a maximum of nine awards would be presented. Last Friday the awards committee concluded its study of the fifteen nominations submitted. The official presentations will be made March 26 at the Final Banquet.

The awards are as follows: the Murray G. Ross Award which is presented to the student making the greatest contribution to university life; the Alice W. Turner and the George Tatham Awards, presented to the female and male students respectively who have made outstanding contributions; the Student Council Honour Awards which are presented to those students whom the committee feels have also made significant contributions to the university.

...A. Young

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