

YORK PRO-TEM

ISSUE No. 7, VOLUME II

THE STUDENT WEEKLY

November 1st, 1962

EDITORIAL

A crucial issue is being considered by the student council.

The question is "should students assume responsibility of discipline involved in their non-academic University life?"

At present all student discipline rests with the Administration, as it does in any highschool.

At the meeting of the student council, Monday night, two proposals were delivered: one by Dean Tatham and the other by Gary Caldwell, student council president. Dean Tatham was not expressing the Administration's view, but was present as guest of the student council, which had invited him to express a positive point of view on student government.

The Dean intimated that the administration was willing to delegate their authority over student discipline in non-academic affairs to the student body.

In effect, the Dean was placing a large sphere of student responsibility on a silver platter and placing it in the hands of the students themselves.

What shocks the Pro-Tem is the fact that in the second proposal, as delivered by Mr. Caldwell, the silver platter was as good as handed back.

Whereas the Dean had placed emphasis on a court consisting completely of students, Mr. Caldwell suggests a "University Court" consisting of three students, a representative from the Senate and several members of the faculty.

Thus, the suggestion by Dean Tatham is aimed at removing administration influence and the Caldwell proposal places the administration right in the middle.

The purpose of having a Student Court is to remove student discipline as far as possible from the administration, and Dean Tatham has suggested that this can be done without the full agreement of the University. However, in his proposal, Mr. Caldwell implies that we, the students, are not responsible enough to handle our own affairs.

Mr. Caldwell states that "the court will take cognizance of charges presented by the President of the University, the Chairman of the Senate and by the President of the Student Council. He overlooks the factor that once a "Student

Court" is initiated, charges against students which might otherwise have been placed by the Administration, could be placed, instead, by a responsible body of students themselves.

He suggests that the "enforcement of any penalty will be carried out by the authority concerned. This means that if the Senate makes a charge against a student, it is up to the Senate itself to enforce the decision which the court has reached.

This ruins the whole principle of student government. We believe that a court of students will be mature enough to reach a responsible judgment and that this court should therefore have the responsibility of enforcing whatever judgment it reaches.

Mr. Caldwell suggests that Court sanctions will make the penalty acceptable to the "whole University Community". We ask Mr. Caldwell why there is any need to justify responsible student judgment involving students, before the "whole University Community". If York institutes a student court, as we hope it will, this Court will have to be approved in principle by the University Senate. Will this not be sanction enough?

He states that a student court must be a "secondary or inferior court" because any student would have to appeal over the Student Court to an academic body. Once again we take issue with Mr. Caldwell. Under the Student Court system, the Academic Court of Appeal will not have the privilege of changing any verdict. It will exist only to decide whether a penalty is too harsh. Mr. Caldwell's suggested court does not even have a Court of Appeal.

Mr. Caldwell suggests that students cannot learn as much by "operating" a student court as they would by "taking part in" a University Court. His reason is that "as soon as something serious would come up, the matter would pass completely from our hands." Once again Caldwell shows a hesitance to assume responsibility because he feels that "students themselves are unable to handle serious responsibility".

Most disturbing is his claim "that it would be very difficult to set up an impartial court in such a small student body.

He ignores the hard fact that York will eventually contain thousands of students and that if any such system is to be instituted, now, while we are young, is the time.

Is he, by use of the word "impartial" implying that among the present three hundred York students, there are not enough responsible students to form an impartial body?"

It should be understood that the proposal delivered by President Caldwell has not yet been approved by the council. It will, however, be discussed at a special meeting Monday evening.

We implore members of the Student Council to open their eyes, and realize that the proposal to institute an "University Court" as outlined by Mr. Caldwell will defeat the very idea of student government.

This paper believes that any council that will not increase its responsibility will be a weak and ineffective one, guilty of neglecting the students' best interests.

We assert, together with Dean Tatham and other learned members of the faculty, that strong student government will provide an opportunity which is non-existent at present: an opportunity for students to leave this University as responsible and mature individuals.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Student Government is not a new principle. It has been in operation at Queen's University for over 100 years.

The student Government at Queens is embodied within the Alma-Mater Society, which has preference over all student organizations and by its constitution "shall have control over all legitimate enterprises of a non-academic nature.

The Constitution of the society places great responsibility in the hands of the court, saying that "the Supreme Court of the Alma-Mater Society shall be the Supreme Tribunal of the student body. Its decisions cannot be over-ruled by the A.M. Society's executive."

The constitution outlines the duties of the Court, emphasizing that "this Court shall be responsible for the punishment of offenses by students of the University except those involving academic standing."

Experience throughout the decades at Queens has shown that successive administrations have depended on the court to preserve law and order on campus, and although not always in agreement with

the Court's decisions, these administrations have almost always given their support.

At Queen's, the system of student government has succeeded primarily because it has had the backing of the administration, and because the students have taken it most seriously.

Experience at Queen's has shown that although many student infractions have infringed upon some University law, the Administration preferred to turn the matter over to the student court. The Court regards itself as a court of justice, and does not bind itself to technicalities of law.

The principle is judgment by one's peers--mainly judgment of students by students.

Under the Constitution of the Society, the Court shall have the power to determine what shall constitute an offense in each individual case, and determine whether or not the defendant is guilty.

The constitution makes little reference to the sentences which the court can impose. In the past the court has resorted to tongue-lashings, fines, and recommendations for expulsion. In 1934, 24 men were found guilty of participating in a clandestine organization (fraternities had been banned) and were forbidden to participate in student political, athletic and social activities for one year.

A Court of Appeal on which administration members sit, does not determine guilt or innocence, but exists to decide if a judgment is too severe.

The constitution of the A.M. Society provides for the existence of a Vigilance Sub-Committee which shall be the body responsible for general student conduct and investigations resulting therefrom.

THE CALDWELL PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSITY COURT -- BASIC POINTS

- * Court will consist of 3 students, 1 member of the administration, 1 from Senate, three from Faculty.
- * President of University, Chairman of Senate, President of Student Council to be ineligible.
- * Court will "pass judgment on indictments, and accompanying punishments or penalties.
- * Charge presented to court will be accompanied by a statement of the intended penalty if any.
- * Court will take cognizance only of charges presented to it by the President of the University, the Chairman of the Senate, the President of the Student Council, or their representatives.

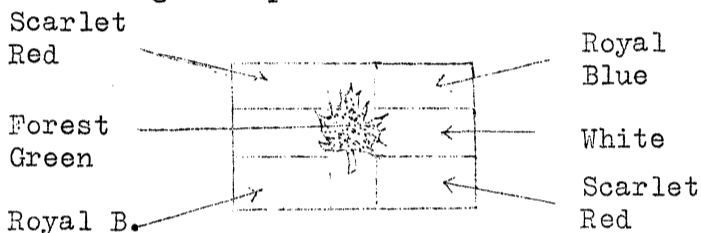
The Caldwell Proposal (cont'd.)

- * There will be no appeals from the judgments of the Court. The Court may decide not to review a charge.
 - * Court will be a tribunal representing the whole University.
 - * Enforcement of any penalty will be carried out by the authority concerned.
 - * Court would not have any enforcing powers.
-

YORK FIRST IN CANADA

After much debate in Monday night's meeting, the student council endorsed and recognized a flag which they feel is truly symbolic of Canada.

This flag is reproduced below.



The motion was introduced by Mr. Doug Rutherford, who stressed Canada's need for a National flag and said "Who is going to lead the Way?" "Why not York!" In the eyes of the University, our country now has a national flag.

Mr. Rutherford was strongly rebutted by Vice-President Tony Martin who argued that

1. There is no really true symbol of Canada.
2. Canada has a flag.
3. We are tied to the queen and the Constitution.
4. We are not yet independent.
5. The flag chosen represents a commercial enterprise.
6. Nationalism is a dangerous element.

Mr. Martin announced to the Council that "if there is feeling--your motion will go through". It is apparent that there was feeling among campus members.

It is claimed that the flag is symbolic of Canada because of the Maple Leaf in its center and because, as its designer notes: "This cross would unite also our Christian denominations in Canada and the Jewish Faith, which is the foundation of our Christian religion."

The Student Council has ordered this flag, which will soon fly high above the University.

YEAR BOOK? GRADUATION BOOK?

On Monday evening Student Council gave Mr. John Corvese and Mr. Phil Spencer authority to produce a "year-book" for the University.

The next morning Mr. Clayton Ruby claimed that announcement of discussion had been omitted from the Agenda for the meeting and declared his intention to edit a Graduation-book for the 3rd year.

Mr. Ruby intends to protest before the Student Council in the meeting to be held Monday Evening.

Mssrs. Corvese and Spencer have announced their intention to go ahead with their year-book unless ordered by Council to do otherwise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Art Committee has been formed at York and is in the midst of preparing the year's programme. Two well-known artists Coughtry and Hedrich, have been invited to speak to this group. They have accepted responsibility for choosing new paintings for the York Art Gallery.

Anyne who is interested can speak to one of the people on the committee: Barbara Cohen, Melanie Ponn, Anne Dalziel, Phil Spencer.

* * *

Employment: Mr. Halse of the University of Toronto Placement service will be at York on Tuesday, November 6th from 9:30 a.m. to accept registrations for part-time and summer employment. Room 219, York Hall.

* * *

Tomorrow afternoon Dr. Francis Steele will be coming to York to speak on the subject, A Sound Faith for Our Time. Dr. Steele has been assistant Professor of Assyriology at Pennsylv. State University, and holds his Ph.D in Archeology. He is speaking this week at various places in Toronto and the Varsity Christian Fellowship have made the arrangements for his visit here. Time: 1:15 p.m. Date: Friday, November 2nd, 1962. Place: Room 245.

* * *

On Monday night the Student Council will hold an important meeting to discuss issues of a Student disciplinary committee and the proposal to have a York Year Book for 1962-63.

* * *

An informal meeting to discuss the possibility of having York students (female) form a cheerleading squad will be held this Friday at 1:15 in the student common room.

COMMENT YORK

A weekly anthology of the thoughts of some of York University's greatest minds, compiled and edited by W. M. Collins and M. W. Scapsoff.

This week: Comment York asks the opinions of some of York students regarding J. R. Seeley's comment on the Cuban crisis, which appeared in last week's Pro-Tem and is reproduced opposite.

Clayton C. Ruby, (3rd. Year)

I find myself wondering just what Professor Seeley means by 'education' In the narrow sense I should think that almost everything we are academically confronted with in the University warrants legitimate expectation of a better future. In the field of Sociology, for example, we are urged, begged, pleaded with, to read writers such as David Riesman, Max Lerner, or C. Wright Mills; all of them critical, optimistic, pointing the ways in which the individual can expect to change the system. And one cannot fail to see that such changes are both desirable and possible.

Just the opposite impression is gained if we expand the term 'education' to encompass the total university experience. For the instructors who teach these ideas and ideals are, perhaps understandably, more concerned with keeping their jobs (and feeding' their kids) than they are in any kind of active commitment to the ideas they "teach" their students. And the Administration, of course, acts as if it had never come into contact with these ideas at all; the teaching of which provides tragically enough the very reason for the existence of any administration.

For a fuller, less bitter analysis of this paradox may I recommend Utopian Essays and Practical Proposals by Paul Goodman.

Roger Charlesworth

In answer to Prof. Seeley's comment, I feel that a "different" future is inevitable. With the world moving at the pace that it is, we cannot help but realize that the future will be entirely "different" from yesterday, today and even tomorrow. As for a "better" future, I think this all depends on the field of reference. Mechanically and architectural-ly speaking, the scientists tell us the future will be unbelievably "better". But in the specific field referred to by Prof. Seeley, that is, in the field of international tension and possible nuclear war, the outlook

Cont'd in next column ----

Re: President Kennedy's stand.

"That we are committed to such mad gambles at all is a measure of man's failure in the past and his helplessness in the present. I should be curious as to what in the students' education had helped him to a warranted hope for a different, better future."

* * *

is extremely unpredictable. From our education, I think we have come to realize that the Russians are just human beings like us and no more desire complete annihilation by nuclear war than we do. We can see their leaders realize the futility of sacrificing the world for selfish desires. This end renders the means unproductive and useless. Little else is shown to us and we are left to rationalize and reason ourselves into a state of necessitous optimism.

Mel Winch (2nd Year)

This is a very strange statement coming from an individual who has dedicated himself to scholarly study and the educating of young minds. Education has shown us where man has failed in the past, but it has also made us more competent in the handling of similar situations if they should arise again.

Was President Kennedy's action a "mad gamble" if it is viewed in an historical context and especially in regard to the events of 1939? If we are really helpless how can any act be riskful?

Certainly the advancement of civilization and progress of society have contradicted the assertion that man is helpless. This is what education has shown us.

David Newman (2nd Year)

The Eskimos of the northern regions never in the cold of the long winter hope for or think of sun bathing. This idea is remote. Excluding the idealist and speaking in terms of the passive realist, a world free of political crisis in the mind of the student similarly seems far fetched. We were born in the midst of the greatest war in the history of mankind. Our first interest in world political affairs, was probably met by the Korean conflict; ensuing skirmishes, such as Formosa, Hungary, Suez, and Berlin all helped us to prepare for a life of constant if not imminent danger of world upheaval. Thus living on the brink of war is an accepted phenomenon for the students of this decade. I believe it is not our formal but our practical education, which prevents us from pushing the proverbial panic button. Almost identical situations have evolved before. -- We have survived.

ATKINSON BREAKDOWN

The Pro-Tem has been able to obtain a breakdown of statistics recently compiled on the Atkinson College. Out of 600 serious applicants, 290 students were accepted, Of these, 171 registered in Introductory English; 95 in Introductory Mathematics, and 102 in Humanities I.

Only 10 people, a much smaller number than expected, withdrew from the course.

Of the remaining 280 students, 186 are male, and 94 female, thus making an almost exact 2:1 relationship.

Only one student is under 20, while the majority are between 20 and 29, (152) 88 are between 30 and 39; 33 between 40 and 49; 10 between 50 and 59.

86% of the students had not obtained a full Grade XIII Certificate.

246 students were born either in Canada, the U.K., or the U. S. A. 23 were born in Europe, and 12 elsewhere.

The majority live in northern Toronto, while 22 students live outside Metro.

Students encompass a wide variety of occupations. Only 1 male has no occupation, and 1 person is retired.

Forty of the 94 women classify themselves as homemakers, while 33 are teachers. The remaining 22 work at nursing or other professions.

BANDAIDS, BLOOD AND BRACKEN

A long-needed addition to York's facilities was added recently when a First Aid room was opened under the direction of Miss S. Bracken of the Zoology Department. The new room is equipped with stretcher, blankets, first-aid kit, and eventually will contain a bed. Located on the first floor of the academic building, Room 139 is kept locked. Persons having keys include Nurse Bracken, Room 154, Miss V. James (Room 127), and Miss V. Draper (Registrar's Office)

ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the election last week are as follows:

1st Year: Victor Hori, David Bell,
Mary Adams

2nd Year: John Corvese

3rd Year: Dale Taylor

There was a smaller turn-out at the polls this year, compared to last. There were only 87 ballots cast out of a possible 148 in 1st year; 87 ballots out of a possible 100 in 2nd year; 30 ballots out of 48 in 3rd Year.

INTERVIEW WITH THE "LIMELITERS"

Massey Hall was jammed. Into the spotlight walked three men, one with a conspicuously large Bass Viol, the others with Guitars and a Banjo. They acknowledged the vibrant applause and stepping up to the microphone filled the Hall with their famous "There's a Meetin' here Tonight". The "Limelitters" had returned to Toronto after a year's absence. The "Limelitters" are a trio consisting of Dr. Louis Gottlieb, a Musicologist, Alex. Hassilev, an ex-actor, and Glen Yarbrough, a Greek scholar. Throughout the fun-filled evening the audience responded to such favourites as "Vikki Dougan", "The Whistling Gypsy, Madeira M'Dear and in their second encore "Hey Li Lee Li Lee". The "Limelitters" appear to be entertainers first and Folksingers second, as their songs dealing with contemporary problems such as a street sweeper versus automation, psycho-analysis of a gunfighter and cleavages merited a greater response from the audience than did the pure Folk music. At times the words to the songs were barely distinguishable but any short-comings were made up for by the clever arrangements and the comic patter of Lou Gottlieb. Dr. Gottlieb is the glib spokesman for the group who makes puns at any time at the slightest provocation. His comment on topical affairs ranged from The Bomb to the Economy which he described as a "reverse upward trend". After bringing down the house with his rendition of "Vikki Dougan" he noted "that sensing we've struck a note of cordiality we'll now move into the downright vulgar". He warned the audience to have "clean mind, clean body - take your pick".

The topic of their folk songs ranged from the Civil Way to a "back to the land movement" with the tremulous voice of Glen Yarbrough carrying the majority of the songs.

After the performance we were fortunate to have the opportunity of interviewing the limelitters whose answers to our questions are duly recorded.

Q.-Where do you get your songs?

A.- Alex Hassilev- Anywhere and everywhere. It takes a bit of digging and research, but anyone can do it.

Q.- How does your constant travelling affect you and what type of engagement do you prefer, one-nighters or nightclub? (they were off to Bloomington, Ind., on Saturday, having come from Aspen, Col.)
A.- Alex Hassilev- I hate the travelling but I prefer one-nighters." When asked why, he replied, "Because, in order of importance, we get more pleasure and it is more lucrative."

Q.- How many songs do you have in your repertoire?

A.- Lou Gottlieb- "We have recorded 100 songs and at any one time we can sing 45 - not well, mind you, but we can sing them."

With Glen Yarbrough, we had more of a conversation than a series of questions and answers and some of the things he told us were quite enlightening. Glen didn't believe that the type of act the Limelites had could work well on television. He noted that he had never seen a group on television that he had liked. (he preferred to stand up while we talked explaining that he felt fidgety after a performance.) He freely confessed that he hadn't really liked any of the albums they had made except for "Through Children's Eyes". Then asked why he felt this way, he told us that the songs were real, straight forward, and simple and this is the way they should be sung. "Infact," he said, "The children carried us through." When we asked him for his definition of a folk song, he told us quite candidly that he really didn't know what a folk song was, and that he sang what he liked. Another member of the party commented on the attitude of some critics who believe that the Limelites are too sophisticated to be classed as Folk Singers. Glen laughingly replied "I'm not, Lou and Alex are sophisticated, but I am as Folksie as they come."

Q,- "Where did the name "The Limelites" originate?

A.- "That's a long story. We worked out our act in Aspen, Col. in a club called the "The Limelite". When we went to the "Hungry i" the manager asked our names. He told us he had just taken down the names of "B-, R-, and S-," and he would be damned if he was going to put the names of Yarbrough, Hassilev and Gottlieb on the marquee. He asked us which Club we worked from and we told him the "Limelite", "Allright," he said, "You're the Limelites". Dr. Gottlieb went on to explain that "It's a nice neutral name that could be fitted to a trampoline or a tame bear act."

At this point he excused himself to obtain another drink and a sandwich. Later in the evening I again had an opportunity of talking with Lou. He gave us what he called "a scholar's definition of a folk song - a song that being well liked, was passed down through the years with a communal interpretation". Dr. Gottlieb animatedly talked on the Cuban crisis, firmly believing that his Government's action was wrong for as he explained, "when a man comes at you with a Hydrogen Bomb, you'd better chat first."

He looked forward to the time when "All of the magic of Madison Avenue could be brought to bear when the U.S. disassembles its first Atomic Weapon."

We asked Dr. Gottlieb what prompted him as a potential College Professor to enter show business, his reply -- MONEY. We found the renowned Dr. equally entertaining off stage as on, and we were sorry to see the interview come to an end. As was stated in "Time" Magazine, if the Kingston Trio are the undergraduates of big time U. S. folk singing, the "Limelites" are the Faculty.

SPORTS MATTERS

by Dave Allen

Basketball:

Last Thursday evening the York Basketball Windigoes made their 1962-3 debut at Don Mills Collegiate, playing against the highly praised University Settlement House team, starring Harvey "Meadowlark" Singleton.

Stars for York were Dave "You'll never get me in the draft, Uncle Sam" Allen, and "Big Al" Cohen, amassing 45 points between them. The whole team played exceptionally well, considering the high caliber of the opposition.

Missing from the squad for the opening encounter was Dave "elbows" Newman. Dave was suffering from the ill effects of a hangnail.

Fashion Note:

Arthur "Doc" Johnson, coach, was seen wearing the "good-luck" sweater presented to him last year for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. He seemed impressed with the performance of the team. At least, he didn't say otherwise.

Rocky Reveals

The Social Committee announced yesterday that there will be a slight change in plans for tomorrow night. Since Mutual Arena is temporarily closed for alterations, they have taken the liberty of providing another means of entertainment. Please Note: At 7:45 p.m. the riotous English comedy "Kind Hearts and Coronets" will be shown in the upper lecture hall. Admission will be 35¢. The Acoustics will be playing for the students' dancing enjoyment in York Hall. The dance will start at 9:30; admission will be 50¢.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To Whom It May Concern:

To whoever desires to know, either at this time or in the future, that this letter is not one of resignation but of resigning. I am resigning from the York Pro-Tem, one of the undergraduate newspapers of York University, as an Editor-in-Chief. It has been my privilege to have been one of the co-editors of this paper from the time of its birth on Feb. 14/62 until the present, and to have actually contributed to the publication of six of its weekly issues. But now due to other duties which I must fulfill, it is necessary for me to leave Pro-Tem.

What is to be the future for York Pro-Tem? At first I thought that we had launched something special and that it would continue as long as York would be here. But now I'm not so sure. It had been the ideal of our creation that this paper would report on the activities of York University in a, "straight-forward and honest manner", Has that been the case? Will it be the case? Complete coverage should not be confused with long articles and numerous pages per issue. Large amounts of money poured into a paper will not insure that it will be a first rate publication Nor can it be a personal instrument used by an individual to dictate not what the readers want to read but what one thinks they should read. The public is not the servant, but the reason for a paper's existence. But when a paper sets itself against the best interests of the community which it serves--what is to be the result? Pro-Tem has served its temporary purpose Its career, if it has been short, has at least been functional if not outstanding. Perhaps its name meant more than we thought? I will be watching with interest.

Yours very truly,
John Corvese

Dear Mr. Corvese:

We are sorry your Pro-Temporary career has ended.

You, sir - are impertinent!

Sincerely,
The Editor

AMERICANA

On Thursday, November 1st, there will be a book display in the East Common Room from 12 to 5. Come at your convenience and browse through new and interesting titles. The emphasis will be mainly on books dealing with American history but there will also be a selection of attractive European calendars.

Dear Sir:

Two weeks ago Monday I had the unhappy experience of having stolen from me-or at least removed permanently-an excellent example of modern photography, specifically the picture of a demure young lady advertising a Mozart concert, and in my anger, I wrote a letter to Pro-Tem accusing all and sundry in the building of a petty theft.

Last Monday, however, I had just the opposite type of experience: I lost my wallet containing several dollars and important personal papers, yet before the day was out, I had it returned via the Dean's office. In both cases, the other person involved was unknown so that my anger and my gratitude are general towards the entire student body. It took the subsequent returning of my wallet to open my eyes, to make me realize that York is composed of unique personalities, some good, some bad, and that the whole cannot be judged by its parts. - Each part must be examined separately - yet not even the sum of the judgements of the parts is entirely a valid assessment of the whole.

With apologies,
Arthur Williams

Dear Sir,

Events of the past week brought the people of our generation closer to a sense of impending doom and ultimate catastrophe than any other crisis of our lifetime. Regardless of one's views on the action taken in the Cuban crisis, and irrespective of it's morality or lack of it, only those skilled in the arts of self-deception can deny that the human species was on the brink of being decimated, if not destroyed.

Assuming that this crisis has, at least for the moment, abated, it would be interesting to know how much of our thoughts it now occupies. If already it escapes us, it only seems to prove that once again we have failed to learn our lesson and hence to do anything constructive towards creating a more civilized world.

Last week the atmosphere, for the student, and indeed for most of mankind, was one of futility and hopeless resignation.

In such situations individuals feel powerless, they come to regard themselves as innocent bystanders witnessing events over which they have no control. Therein lies our present weakness and our past failing. To resign from the course of human events and to be uncommitted is to admit our own defeat.

As long as we are able, it is the duty of every individual committed to life on this planet, to plan, initiate and take a course of action, designed ultimately to bring some order to our present state of international anarchy. Despite our own shortcomings, misgivings and personal failings, it is still our duty to take some action, however small, for if we continually stand waiting for a leader, none will ever come.

For those who think the existing institutions are sufficient to cope with our present day problems, let them remember the words of Mr. Rickerd who said in last week's Pro-Tem, relevant to the Cuban crisis "the implications in International Law are certainly far-reaching." Then let them ask where is International Law when brute force is left to determine the course of human history.

It is not the purpose in this short space to define how one must act, but suffice it to say that publicly voiced opinion, in even the most authoritarian of countries, seldom goes unheeded.

Sincerely,
Lillian Hale.

Editor's Note

Owing to the fact that few letters were received this week, Pro-Tem has decided to print this last letter, in spite of the fact that the 150 word maximum has been surpassed. However, it is not expected that this will happen in the future.

THE CAMPAIGN

Campaign speeches were given last Thursday afternoon in Room 204.

The proceedings opened with speeches from the three second year candidates, followed by those from the six first year candidates. The two third year candidates were only introduced and by mutual agreement, gave no speeches.

The speeches covered a variety of subjects including constitutions, faculty-student relations, school spirit, apathy, irresponsibility, sex and looking into cheer-leaders' uniforms.

The audience was made up of forty or fifty hecklers, idealists, intellectuals and others. The hecklers had fun, the idealists became disgusted and left and the intellectuals asked searching questions while the others just watched.

THE AFRICAN CULTURE by Pitan Bamisaiye

Remarkable isn't it?

Go to a Human Geography lecture, or a Political Science Seminar, see a Hollywood movie or even listen to one of the "vaunted" missionaries talk on or about Africa and you are led to believe that you are once more in pre-historic times and in the presence of a group of savages with absolutely no culture, no vestiges of learning and certainly no claim to civilization.

What is culture? What is civilization? I have often wondered! Of culture the Oxford dictionary says "intellectual development" but I can add some of my own. Culture is the basic essence of civilization, and to-day this manifests itself in the art of government, in learning, in art, in music, even in dress.

Why is the African so completely destitute of these? Or is he? Why is he so barbaric, so backward and so savage that God in his tender mercies had to send deliverance to him through the medium of the "wonderful" English, the "understanding" French or even the "very incarnation of godliness", Leopold of Belgium?

Many times you hear "the African cannot govern himself". But how many have stopped to read of the Great Empires that once flourished in West, Central and East Africa. The Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai all flourished in the 10th to 15th centuries. They actively traded in gold, salt, ostrich feathers and glass with the Arabs and the Venetians. They have capital cities, central government in Kumbi and Goa. They have their line of Kings with resplendent courts. They were versed in Arabic, the language of the learned at this period in this area. It is a remarkable testimony to the virility of Western man that these kingdoms succumbed eventually to his force of arms. In Central Africa there is Ethiopia whose line of kings was traceable to Solomon. Even in the 19th century the Kings of Ashanti in the Gold Coast and the Kings of Abeokuti in Nigeria were accorded the right to rule independent of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

When people talk of Egypt, they forget it is in Africa; when they mention Ethiopia, it is something from the Bible and the fact that one of the greatest defiances ever offered the Roman military might was from Carthage in Africa, is something for the birds (in American jargon). One of the first civilizations of the world was that of Egypt where the clock was first discovered. To the Egyptian of that

The African Culture (cont'd.)

time, the other peoples of the world were not civilized. To the Romans, any non-Roman, Gauls, Celts, Saxons--were barbarians who were unfit to govern themselves. But were they really unfit? History better answers that question.

Take the Englishman. He protests most vehemently about the Russian monkeys who died in space and he spends his beautiful summer watching the bullfight in Madrid with ecstasy. Some inhumanity or inanimality! He tells the world what immeasurable good the British missionary is doing civilizing the savages in Africa, but never mentions the gold, the diamonds and the raw materials not to mention the slave labour that leaves Africa into Britain. He condemns the Portugese brutal treatment of the natives in Angola and immediately sells two frigates to Portugal to suppress them. He condemns apartheid in South Africa and for years votes with South Africa on apartheid in the United Nations.

I deplore the activities of the Mau-Mau in Kenya; so does every Westerner. It is the acme of savagery, but then the civilized Americans can have their Ku Klux Klan and the incomparable Mafia. They are symbols of progress.

Sure, Africa used to have human sacrifices and this is bad. But the fabulous Roman Empire could train gladiators for the sole purpose of killing themselves to entertain the Romans! Yet Rome was civilized. The Germany of Wagner, of Mozart, of Beethoven was great and civilized, but the 20th century Germany with its industrial complex, its military might, could have concentration camps where human skins were used as lampshades. Indeed the "beast of Belsen" still lives, but not in Africa.

Why can't African Hotentots and Bushmen live in peace if the Laplanders, the Eskimos and the Red Indians live in peace!

I am a Christian, but I sometimes wonder, is Christianity the best religion for Africa? What reward has the African who was saved from being sacrificed to heathen gods if only he lives to be burnt at the stake by the Inquisition for refusing to believe in the infallibility of the Pope!

Is democracy the best form of government or is it communism with its attendant terrors. Which is best for Africa? Is French democracy with its instability of government the best example for Africa to follow? Or do we have to maintain the facade of a monarchy like Britain? Maybe it is the Nazi type dictatorship that we need; then we can

throw the world into flames and still admire the beautiful strains of Wagner. Or a Stalin or Krushev. Then we can have periods of stability with fear followed by violent upheavals so that we can enjoy the privilege of calling ourselves "Comrade Corrensky" or is it "Levinsky"!

Last year an exuberant York student jumped up to ask "Why is homosexuality so widely practised in Africa?" I was aghast because, there being too many women in Africa, homosexuality is a Western luxury that we cannot afford. But then this shows the general trend. Anything bad must be from Africa. The terrible diseases abound there (so the books say)--Leprosy and the social diseases. Sure, but nobody stops to ask whether they are native to Africa.

I can only say quite frankly that Africa has a lot to learn from both East and West, but there has never been a time when a whole continent needs more understanding and sympathy and co-operation from the other peoples of the world than now.

ART LECTURE

On Tuesday, October 30th, Dr. L. Longman, noted authority on art from U.C.L.A. addressed York University. Miss Anne Dalziel has reported on Dr. Longman's talk to the Pro-Tem.

In his introduction to Dr. Longman's talk, Dean Tatham expressed his amazement at discovering someone who was willing, not only to state publicly his opinion on modern art, but to describe the causes as well. Dr. Longman himself was a little more modest in his claims, proposing to discuss only a couple of post-war trends. He rightly pointed out that the field of modern art is rather wide for an hour lecture.

The all-important principle of modern art is the principle of reduction. The race to be the most avant-garde consists in the continual discarding of superfluous shapes and colours in the search for the direct, honest and unadorned truth. The supreme achievement would seem to be a bare canvas. This is not as funny as it sounds. Dr. Longman showed slides of the work of a former student who became famous when he exhibited canvasses with four colours and whose genius is undisputed now that his canvasses display a single unpolluted hue.

Art Lecture (cont'd.)

The two trends which he illustrated his slides can be divided into the decorative and the non-decorative. Some show pretty clean lines and colour combinations, while others, following tradition of Jack Pollock, are wild travaganzas of drops and dribbles. Dr. Longman seemed a little bewildered at this latter type.

Dr. Longman put forth several excellent suggestions as to why this type of art has developed. The ordinary man of day has become completely inculcated with a scientific attitude i.e. the search for truth belongs entirely to science. Art cannot reveal any philosophic or metaphysical truths. Its purpose is either decoration or self-expression. The man who drives his motorcar over gigantic canvasses is creating legitimate art because he is expressing himself.

Many of the modern schools of painting have "helped themselves" to a bit of scientific truth. The symbolic works are expressing the underlying reality of things revealed by people like Einstein. The reduction school which Dr. Longman discussed have taken their principle from that of Freud who reduced everything to the subconscious motivation of sex. The Dada school reflect the potential ideas of nothingness and absurdity.

The discussion after the formal lecture proved rather lively and amusing. Questions were put forth and there was talk about the moving qualities of a white line on a huge canvas of vermilion, the sincerity of painters in general.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

African Culture Josh Pitan Bama
Limelighters .. Marily Ottaway, P.O.
The Campaign .. Merril Shepherd
Elections Rick Wilkinson
Comment York Murray Soupcoff
Collins

Editors-in-Chief	....	Harold J. Levy
New Editor	.....	Allan Millward
Contributing Editor		
and Printer	.....	Doug Hird
Sports Editor	.....	Dave Allen
Circulation Chief	...	Lillian Hale
Copy Reader	.....	Steve Barker
Mortician	.....	Janet McQuillan
Typing	.....	Trudy Lipp

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PAPER ARE
OF THE EDITORS, AND NOT NECESSARILY
OF THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL

* * *

Tentanda Via

* * *
