

University NEWSBEAT

By the Communications Department, S 802 Ross, 667-3441

Planned to honour Murray Ross

Symposium will examine future of universities

A Symposium on Higher Education, planned to examine and explore the key academic issues facing universities in the future, will be held next Thursday, October 9, in the ninth floor Senate Chambers of the Ross Building.

The Symposium is planned to honour Dr. Murray G. Ross, President Emeritus of York University.

Although the Symposium is intended to examine the broad issues facing universities, rather than to focus on York's particular concerns, it is hoped that this overview may provide a starting point for the discussions of the University Commission on Aims

and Objectives. (The Commission was established by President Macdonald last week to articulate the University's academic goals and priorities and their means of implementation.)

President Macdonald will open the Symposium at 10:30 a.m. Following his remarks, Dr. Claude Bissell, former President of the University of Toronto, will explore the basic role of the university in both a national and an international context.

At 11 a.m., Dr. Reva Gerstein, a member of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, will relate some of his experiences as an OCUA member and comment on

the role of the University in terms of society in general.

The morning session will conclude with a discussion period, during which Mr. Macdonald, Dr. Bissell, and Dr. Gerstein will answer questions from the audience.

At 2 p.m., Dr. J. B. Macdonald,

Executive Director of the Council of Ontario Universities will open the afternoon session. Dr. Macdonald will discuss institutional problems facing universities, including problems of accessibility and equality of education.

Walter G. Pitman, President of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute,

will follow with an examination of the relationship of higher education to specialized institutions like Ryerson and the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology.

A discussion period between Dr. Macdonald, Mr. Pitman and the audience will conclude the afternoon session.

The Symposium will conclude with a working dinner, designed to bring together York's key academic personnel. At this time Professor Richard Storr and Professor Jack Ellis will each make a summation of the discussions and key issues presented, to create a focus for the day's events.

Dr. Murray G. Ross will deliver the concluding address to the Symposium, concerning his own impressions of the future of the universities.

All members of the York community are urged to attend the morning and afternoon sessions of the Symposium.

Symposium programme

10 - 10:30 a.m. Opening Remarks, Mr. H. Ian Macdonald, President, York University.

10:30 - 11 a.m. Dr. Claude Bissell, University Professor and former President, University of Toronto.

11 - 11:30 a.m. Dr. Reva Gerstein, Member of the Ontario Council on University Affairs.

11:30 - 11:45 a.m. Coffee.

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Discussion period: Mr. Macdonald, Dr. Bissell, Dr. Gerstein answering questions from the audience.

2 - 2:30 p.m. Dr. J. B. Macdonald, Executive Director, Council of Ontario Universities.

2:30 - 3 p.m. Mr. Walter G. Pitman, President, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

3 - 4 p.m. Discussion period: Dr. Macdonald, Mr. Pitman answering questions from the audience.

4 p.m. Coffee and further discussion, adjourning to Eighth Floor Lounge, Ross Building.



York libraries Director

O'Connell takes post with old Alma Mater

Mr. Thomas Francis O'Connell, Director of Libraries at York University since 1963, has resigned his position to return to Boston College, his Alma Mater, as University Librarian.

In an interview this week, Mr. O'Connell related some of the high points of his years at York. He quoted the poet Isaac Rosenberg in referring to "hieroglyphs engraved on the thundered tree of my memory".

"I came to York as Director of Libraries on March 1, 1963," he said.

"Murray Ross had invited me to Toronto in the fall of 1962. I remember the beauty of the Glendon campus. I had never been to Canada before, but the beauty of Glendon in the fall was enough to make me want to come to Toronto — that combined with the plans and enthusiasm of Murray Ross."

Mr. O'Connell received an A.B. (cum laude) in Economics from Boston College in 1950, following which he obtained an MS in Library Science from Columbia University.

In 1974, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Civil Law by Bishop's University.

From 1951 to 1963 he worked in the library system at Harvard University, ultimately as Assistant Librarian.

York's first library, the Leslie Frost Library, was opened in the fall of 1963, shortly after Mr. O'Connell joined York.

"Then, in 1965," recalls Mr. O'Connell, "the president asked me to chair a committee which would celebrate the opening of the York campus. The Steacie Science Library was our first building here. We had a day-long celebration to which the president of Harvard came to speak. That was certainly a red-letter day."

In 1971, Pulitzer Prize-winner Archibald MacLeish spoke at the opening of the Scott Library.

"Then, just last month, we added our one millionth volume. Out of all the university libraries in North America, there are maybe 100 which have more than a million volumes.

"The university with the most volumes is Harvard," said Mr. O'Connell. "Then comes Yale, Chicago, the University of Toronto and so on. I don't believe that's a coincidence. There is some correlation between the number of volumes and the academic worth of the institution."

Mr. O'Connell's resignation becomes effective on June 30, 1976.

Colleges, Fine Arts organize choir for "anyone who wants to sing"

Since 1968 there has been no official York University Choir. A sad state of affairs indeed, but relief is on the way, according to Alan Lessem, newly-appointed acting chairman of the Music Department.

York's seven colleges and the Faculty of Fine Arts are jointly sponsoring the formation of a York University Choir. Membership is open to all students, staff and faculty in the York community who are interested in the choral singing experience, said musical director and conductor Lloyd Bradshaw in an interview this week.

"We hope to attract people who want to experience the joy of singing", said Bradshaw, who was the conductor of the University of Toronto Chorus for ten years, and is the founding conductor of the new University of Toronto Hart House Chorus.

"There are a lot of good voices around this campus, and people at all levels of musical achievement and voice development ranging from soprano to bass are welcome."

The first audition and registration is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7 at 5 p.m. in Curtis Lecture Hall F. The audition will be conducted in a group situation with no individual voice tests, and no preparation is necessary for this session. Rehearsals will then continue every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. in Curtis F.

TTC tickets now available

Assistant Vice President (Business Operations) Harry Knox announced this week that Margle's clothing store in Central Square has agreed to act as a TTC ticket agent serving the York community.

"This is a service that will be greatly appreciated by the community," said Mr. Knox.

Former supervisor of music for the North York Board of Education, Bradshaw expects to develop a complete choral repertoire for the choir including Canadian folksongs, early and Renaissance music, jazz and popular songs.

"Many students have had some vocal music experience in high school or have been members of choirs in Toronto's various ethnic communities," said Bradshaw.

"We're offering an opportunity for anyone who wants to sing to be

part of a major choir."

Aiming for a group of approximately 60 voices, Bradshaw intends to tackle a major work, such as an opera, as soon as he feels the choir is ready for it. This would be an interdisciplinary venture with the other Fine Arts Departments like theatre and dance.

The main purpose of the York University Choir is to bring music into the colleges. Once underway, the choir would perform at college functions and special university events.

"Give new food services a fair chance" -- Small

"When the Food Services Committee, which is representative of a very wide spectrum of our community, recommended that a single caterer be replaced by a number of independent operations, it was obviously their intention that competitive outlets would best serve the University by offering a variety of menus and that competition would inspire the lowest possible prices," said Vice-President (Administration) W.W. Small on Monday.

Mr. Small made the statement in an interview with CITY-TV concerning the Great Food Crisis at York University.

"It seems a little premature to criticize or even challenge that philosophy before it has had a fair trial. Say something more than a few weeks," he added.

Mr. Small was interviewed, at the request of Channel 79, following reports to that station that "... students were being ripped off" and that the food being served was "inedible".

"If that is the case," said Mr. Small, "the Food Services Committee is there to respond to those complaints. I personally feel it is a little early to expect the new competitive system to have proven its

validity. But the mechanism to monitor what is happening and to receive and act on complaints and suggestions is there to be used. And it will be used. But to expect instant miracles or improvement by confrontation seems a little unreasonable."

Burmese dancers open at Burton

The Burmese National Theatre, currently on its first North American tour, makes its Canadian debut at Burton Auditorium on Wednesday, October 8, marking the opening of York University's 1975-76 Performing Arts Series.

The troupe will demonstrate the complex and dynamic dance patterns which form the basis of Burmese dance, accompanied by the unique musical instruments of ancient Burma.

Burmese dancers spend four years mastering over 200 intricate exercises in preparation for their careers. These complicated dance forms have never before been shown in public. However on this tour a group of the exercises have been incorporated into the programme.