

Anthony Gizzie

## A crucial period at York

Dear Mr. Macdonald:

To be the president of York university is a great honour and I am sure I am not alone in congratulating you in your appointment. You bring with you your experience, knowledge and wisdom which can be used in a university setting for the first time since you left the U of T in 1956. It will be your ability to re-activate your mode of thinking in a university perspective that will mark your term as a success or failure.

I do not mean to be irreverent, but there are many students who are quite wary over your appointment. For years they have witnessed the Ontario government dictate to the universities the 'hows', 'whys' and 'whens' of education. The Wright Report's portrayal of what education in this province should be alarmed these people even more. It is easy to see why the last person they would want as president would be a former civil servant, an economist from Queen's Park who could put into practice the laws and maxims of the Conservative government's dictates on education. However, at this point you should be given the benefit of the doubt that you will shed your image of a civil servant for that of an academic.

You must remember that education to many students is considered sacred and must not be manipulated because of economic cutbacks or power plays. It's understood that at this time money is a scarce commodity and that cutbacks in certain areas are necessary. However, one must wonder why a great deal of the money that could be placed in ac-

tual education is financing the outrageously large and untouchable bureaucracy which you will now head. But, then again, being a former civil servant you may feel right at home.

York University is a unique school and has great potential. The problem which you will soon discover, is that this potential is not being transformed into reality. No one is quite sure why this is the case but everyone would like things to improve. It will be your responsibility to lead us in that direction.

Personally, I think you will have your hands full. Great changes will have to be made on bookstore policies, food services, the college system, security, and provisions for day students.

But beyond these problems you will have to face the York student's lack of pride in his university. People admit they attend York, but they are not proud of the fact. This is a sorry condition which your leadership and policies must help correct. It is your job as well as ours.

This is a critical period to become president of a university, since many in Ontario feel we are in a crisis situation.

You must use your proven ability to demonstrate you are worthy of your position. That is not a disrespectful thing to say because we must all prove our worth if we are to place York in its rightful position. I pray we all can do so and sincerely wish you the best of luck and skill in your term.

Yours truly,  
A. J. GIZZIE

## Of dogs and trees

By NIT REDNECK

Once again stirring social comment and biting political issues have been raised at Radio Snork's Bullshit Sessions.

Moderator Nit Redneck fielded topics ranging from a dog pissing on the rubber trees on the ninth floor of the Ross building to the high price of blueberry pie in the Central Square cafeteria.

Radio Snork's investigative reporting staff was dispatched to Stong College after student Mary Higgins lodged a complaint that the new building was sinking into the ground.

Moderator Redneck personally answered a member of the Students for a Solid Pumpkin who argued that the moon was on a collision course with the Behavioural Sciences building.

Redneck argued that the student was a "pumpkin himself" and couldn't tell his "ass" from a "hole" in the "ground".

The spectators roundly applauded young Susan Creamcheese, a first year arts student, when she deplored the fact that her boyfriend hadn't shown up to meet her at the bookstore on time. A lynch mob was sent to find him.

The meeting ended as a dog walked down the stairs into the bearpit and cunningly urinated on Nit Redneck's leg.

Next week's guest will be Fletcher Chiarli, supporter of the People's Movement for Collapsible Ironing Boards, and a good friend of "John and Louise Ferlow, a grand couple and the life of any party."

Be sure to tune in.

## About letters to the editor

It's Excalibur's policy to run all letters to the editor. Please try to limit your comments and complaints to 250 words. Because of time and space limitations letters may be delayed a week or more, though attempts will be made to publish them while they are still topical. Letters received later than Monday noon will not appear in the paper the same week.

## Letters to the Editor

### Music chairman notes cancellation of cultural page

Whatever has happened to the cultural events page in Excalibur?

There are few enough ways to contact the campus community with news of coming events. By subtracting this service to the community from the pages of Excalibur, we are left with half a way—the daily bulletin.

The weekly calendar of events still remaining in Excalibur is printed with so fine a type and so jammed together, that my head fills with images of needles and haystacks whenever I try to find what is on.

Please restore the cultural events page as soon as you can. If you can't, let us know why. Perhaps there is something we can do about it.

AUSTIN CLARKSON, Chairman  
Department of Music

Ed. note: The university newsbeat page has been provided by the Dept. of Information on a paid basis. It was their decision to discontinue this service to the community.

### Time to repatriate our national symbol, oh maple leaf forever

Last week a conscientious fellow named Ian Stewart wrote to this paper objecting to the American flag which a student has hung in a Bethune residence window. I'd like to write publicly right here and now that Canada needs more concerned patriots like Mr. Stewart, and I'm proud to be a fellow student of his on this great Canadian campus here at York University. In fact there are a lot more affronts to our "national dignity" than that flag around here, and I think that at least once every month there should be a "Clean Out America" week just to set things right.

If I had my way I'd start with the eagle. It's not only an American symbol but it was also a fascistic ensignia in Nazi Germany. Yet in spite of this there are still hundreds of these war-like birds flying around free in our wholesome Canadian air.

And with beavers and maple trees the situation is even worse. Take maple trees for example. If Mr. Stewart wants to see a real "slap in the face to Canadian self-expression" he should leave his patriotism at home and spend some time in the New England states. Why, every damn one of those states is just covered with maple trees, and yet the very leaf of that tree is the Canadian national symbol.

Now I say that as long as the U.S.A. has those trees, we free people of Canada are never going to have our own true identity. And if we want a

truly Canadian national symbol we're just going to have to get those trees back. So I call upon Mr. Stewart and any other concerned citizens here at York who love this country who want to see Canada strong and free and mighty to join me in a great campaign.

We must "Repatriate the Maple Tree" or we must die trying!

Proudly yours, a Canadian,  
PETER W. CURRIER



### Toronto television is bland imitation of American product

In his Excalibur review of The Starlost, Rick Spence failed to recognize the flaw that is central to not only this sci-fi series but to the general trend of television production in Toronto. The only source for praise that Mr. Spence can find in The Starlost is its promise to achieve an international appeal: "Any Canadian could instinctively recognize it as a home-grown product, but the series should not be dismissed just for that reason. Japanese, European and American stations have picked it up for distribution. In fact Toronto is quickly becoming renowned as a centre for quality television and film production."

A month ago, the city newspapers reported similar sentiments. All of them expressed the exciting news that this show was breaking into the American lineup, and that Toronto will be one of the four major television centres of the world.

But Toronto must avoid the cultural suicide that will occur if our production centre jumps into the international big time without affirming a distinct personal voice. It's not that we're biting off more than we can chew. On the con-

trary, this apparent gung-ho ambition is a cop-out. We are letting our capitalists save money by making shows for the Americans.

The three present production centres are New York, Los Angeles and London. Each has its distinct sense of place and style. The New York television productions have their bustling urban streets with sloppy, shouting people; the L.A. productions have their plastic suburban homes with cooler yet kissy people, and the London productions have, well, anything, from estates on winding lanes to cockney pubs, that is all so obviously British.

Now, let's look at our Toronto productions that have been making their way into the international market. How do we "instinctively recognize" The Starlost as Canadian "home-grown"? Mr. Spence implies that it is the cheap and shoddy setting, the poor acting, and the imaginative scripts. Perhaps the bare and claustrophobic setting is indeed indicative of our unique Canadian paradox. But is there anything else that indicates The Starlost is a Toronto production?

Keir Dullea is an American. The guest star for each week is usually an American. Now if we can attract Americans into our culture, fine. But this is not what we are doing. Dullea and his two Canadian co-stars play the roles of rebels from an Amish community in the American Midwest. It is obvious that The Starlost is designed primarily for the American television audience. Mr. Spence even predicts the shows improvement on the basis that "former Star Trek writers have been hired." They should be able to make our Toronto show just like the American sci-fi series.

The CRTc limited the amount of American television that our networks could import for two supposedly synonymous reasons: to preserve our culture and to encourage our own production business. Ironically, while Toronto is becoming a major television centre, we are finding even less Canadian content. The Trouble with Tracy will show a glimpse of a Toronto skyscraper but pretend that it is on Madison Avenue. Police Surgeon goes out of its way to keep Toronto a bland anonymous city, pretending it is somewhere in the U.S.

Yet if the pathetic money-hungry producers of Toronto only realized the importance of distinct location and style, they could make even more money. That the American audience is growing tired of its N.Y. and L.A. productions is indicated by the recent influx of shows from outside those old centres. The popular shows in the U.S. now are, like All in the Family and Sanford and Son, modeled after the British creations, or like Mary Tyler Moore, set in Minneapolis, and Bob Newhart Show, set in Chicago, refreshing distances from the stock Brooklyn character. And, who could sit through an episode of The Streets of San Francisco without the distinctive character of the city itself?

Clearly more Americans would be attracted to a Toronto television production that made the most of the city and whatever it is that's peculiar to the Canadian identity. The trends of

their own production industry indicate that the American audience would prefer a more personal, Canadian version than the bland imitations of their own formulas that we're now selling them. I stress this last argument for an obvious reason. While the CBC, pressured from a sense of duty, stumbles along in an effort to develop a Canadian voice, the private producers of the CTV will not put down their cigars for Canada unless they can see more money in it.

DAVID LATHAM

### "Unique identity" to make McLaughlin impossible to ignore

I felt compelled to answer the article of November 8, "Herons and Beer Consensus" regarding the need for the colleges to "develop unique identities." As a member of the McLaughlin College Student Council I would like to inform these people that McLaughlin is now developing an identity through the long-range plan "Put Mac on the Map."

We sincerely believe that the college system can work, and a stronger central government is not the answer for York University. Our campaign includes T-shirts at a reasonable price for all Mac students, identity cards, more social events and the improvement of college facilities. We have made repairs to our Junior Common Room, and updated our Games Room.

As to the remark that colleges should be "simply places where people could sit around and drink beer," we are proud to boast that ARGH is the only true coffee shop on campus, where the students can study, talk, play chess or bridge, without the hustle of having to drink. We have been flooding the university with posters showing people how to find us and by September 1974, anywhere you go on campus, it will be impossible to ignore the presence of Maclaughlin College.

JENNIFER MICHAEL BRADBURY  
McLaughlin College Student Council

### Library light show wastes our energy, burns up student

No wonder students are dropping out of universities. The world on campus has little or nothing to do with the world outside. York University is no exception. After months of disuse, the York library finally puts into operation the 'light show' by the first level escalator, in the same week that is bombarded with talks of a world-wide energy crisis. I go home and am careful not to burn any lights unnecessarily, while York enjoys electric art!

H. CONRAD