

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

Prepared and paid for by the Communications Department, S802 Ross, 667-3441

Mature Students Find Home

During the last few years at York the mature student population has grown significantly. As of February, 1980, 46 per cent of the total York student population was 26 years of age or older. To meet the needs of this growing body, many services geared to mature student interests have been introduced. A Mature Student Lounge was established last year and a Committee on Mature Student Services has more recently been formed.

The committee is headed by Ellen Baar, professor of social science and Mature Student Advisor for the Faculty of Arts and is composed of both faculty and staff. Prof. Baar states that the committee will bring together those who are providing services for mature students and allow them to examine specific difficulties. Members of the Math Learning Centre, the Career Centre, the Writing Workshop as well as other counselling and liaison groups will each be represented.

Among York's Faculties, Atkinson College has the highest percentage of mature students: 79.3 per cent. It is followed by Glendon College (30.8), the Faculty of Arts (18.4), the Faculty of Fine Arts



Mature students Arnold and Marie Miller (16.1) and the Faculty of Science (8.9).

Despite their numbers, Professor Baar explains, many mature students still feel socially uncomfortable and wish for more activities geared to their interests. One solution she favours is the establishment of a mature student college, a proposal the Council of College Masters will be considering

this fall.

Also beginning this fall is a Faculty Friends organization, to provide liaison between mature students and faculty members in their field, and a Buddy System, to help acquaint incoming students with those already here.

What do most mature students at York have in common? According to Arnold Miller, a 64 year old first

year student of classical studies, mature students are much less academically competitive than the "mainstream" students. He attributes this to a difference in motivation: mature students are interested in knowledge for knowledge's sake alone.

It was the pursuit of knowledge which brought Mr. Miller to university. He left school in his early teens and spent most of his life working, for many years as an administrator at the University of Toronto. "I've spent my life engaged in pragmatic decisions," he states, "but now I want to expand my mind."

Mr. Miller's wife, Marie, also 64 and a fourth year English and Humanities student, is glad that she waited until recently to return to school. "I think you have more to bring to it when you're older," she states. "Now I really get a kick out of it."

Mrs. Miller feels, however, that many mature students are uncomfortable because of their age difference and need more social support. For social reasons alone she thinks that the establishing of a mature students' college would be a good idea. "Recognition is comforting," she states.

Jenny Gonsalves, 29 years old and a third year philosophy student, states that she was attracted to York because she had heard how open it was to mature student needs. "I think there is an awareness around York of mature students' use and value," she says.

A subsidiary benefit of the presence of mature students, she points out, is that it shows the younger students that education is not only for a certain group of people at one stage of life. "It shows them that education is a life long experience."

President hosts open sessions

How would you like to meet the President? York University President H. Ian Macdonald will be hosting a series of five open sessions on the Keele and Glendon campuses so that interested students, staff, and faculty can voice their views and concerns about the University.

While the sessions are scheduled by areas, all are open to members of the community. A number of student councils will be participating in these conversations.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

● Tuesday, September 23 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in Founders Junior Common Room—for Founders, Vanier, Winters and McLaughlin Colleges.

● Wednesday, September 24 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Bethune Junior Common Room—for Bethune, Stong, and Calumet Colleges.

● Thursday, September 25 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Junior Common Room of Glendon College—for members of the Glendon community.

● Wednesday, October 1 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the student lounge of the Administrative Studies Building—for Administrative Studies and Osgoode Hall Law School students.

● Thursday, October 2 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge on the 8th floor of the Ross Building (South End)—for Graduate Students and Environmental Studies students.



Mature Students Committee: (from left to right) Fran Bonisteel, Dyanne Gibson, Jane Pahl, Ann Carson, Sylvia Campbell and Prof. Ellen Barr.

Services for mature students

The following is a list of some services available to mature students. A Directory for Mature Students will be available in the Mature Student Lounge (Rm. 001 McLaughlin College) and through the Glendon Office of Student Programs at the end of September.

DAYCARE

The York University Cooperative Daycare Centre accommodates children aged six weeks to five years in a full-day program. Enrolment preference is given to parents who agree to work four days a month in the centre. Monthly fees range from \$185 to \$195 per month. The Centre is located in the Atkinson College Residence and can be reached at 667-3273. The Glendon Day Care Centre is located in the basement of York Hall and can be reached at 481-8523.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL

The Mature Student Lounge, located in Rm. 001 McLaughlin College provides a place for mature students to meet one another in a relaxing atmosphere. A Buddy

System has been set up to provide incoming mature woman students with a buddy to help answer questions and connect the incoming student with the individuals and organizations to provide a meaningful support system. To become a buddy or to be paired with a buddy contact Catherine McWhinnie at 667-3561.

A Faculty Friends organizations has also been established to provide liaison between mature students and faculty members in their field. More information can be obtained from Barbara Warne at 667-3737.

The Women's Centre provides information about women's activities, women's studies, courses at York and resources available for women.

ACADEMIC COUNSELLING

Each of the seven colleges to which arts, science and fine arts students are assigned has a senior tutor with prime responsibility for providing assistance in course selection and dealing with academic problems. The Counselling and Development Centre also

has group workshops, individual counselling and self-help programs. Group workshops are offered on such practical issues as reading texts, listening and notetaking, reviewing for exams and other aspects of studying. Groups meet once a week. Individual counselling is available throughout the year and is for those who prefer individual help or who cannot attend the groups. The self-help programs use programmed materials to improve reading and effective listening.

The Math Learning Centre, located in S310 Ross, assists students who are having difficulty or expect to have difficulty with fundamental mathematics.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Besides the government loans and grants available to all students, there are special bursaries and emergency loan funds of interest to mature students. The Dr. Marion Hilliard Bursary is awarded annually to a mature student at Glendon College on the basis of financial need and academic

standing. The Toronto Professional and Business Women's Club Bursary, judged on financial need and academic ability, is normally awarded to a mature woman student. The University Women's Club of Toronto provides up to

\$200 in a short-term repayable loan for women enrolled full-time. The Mature Women Student Emergency Loan Fund provides short-term financial assistance. For more information call Joan Stewart at 667-2305.

Grotowski talks

A rare public appearance by Polish theatre director Jerzy Grotowski will be made in Toronto on Friday, October 3, it was announced by Don Rubin, chairman of York University's theatre department.

Grotowski will be one of a number of theatre practitioners and critics from Europe, the U.S. and Canada who will be participating in a three-day seminar at York University examining recent directions in world theatre and their social ramifications.

Grotowski will speak on

Friday evening, October 3, about his recent moves back toward what he calls "root theatre". An open question and answer period will follow his talk.

Saturday, October 4 will be devoted to an examination of the work of Peter Brook at his Research Centre in Paris and its ramifications. Sunday, October 5 will be an examination of Grotowski's work in detail and will include contributions by Lukwik Faszen of Wroclaw, Poland. Other speakers and panelists will be announced as their participation is confirmed.