

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

Prepared by the Communications Department, S 802 Ross, 667-3441

The President Reports

by H. Ian Macdonald

During the past year we have attempted to improve our communication with the York community in order that everyone would have an opportunity to understand the facts and circumstances relating to the University's policy and position. However, I have been particularly concerned about the difficulty of communicating with our large student body.

My concern was heightened at the February 9th gathering in the Curtis Lecture Hall when it became clear that a number of York people, including some in official positions, were not aware of the strenuous efforts of this University to remind the public of the importance of universities in society and to convince the Ontario Government that its financial policies would create intolerable pressures on the university system.

Following that meeting, a number of other people, both inside and outside the University, communicated their surprise to me that there was such inadequate understanding of the strong positions which have been taken by this University and the sustained efforts to represent York University to the community on the part of so many here. For those reasons we will be reporting in these pages from time to time to the student community, in particular, and the York community, in general.

As I indicated at the meeting on February 9th, I was greatly encouraged by the display of support for York University in its present financial predicament. For the past three and a half years in many public speeches, in submissions to the Ontario Council on University Affairs, and in direct meetings with the Ontario Government, I have explained the serious consequences which present policies will have for the university system in Ontario; it is reassuring to know that these views and the expressed policies of this University have such a wide measure of general support.

As I suggested in the Senate and in letters last term to the heads of the various unions in York University, I believe we should avoid the designation "crisis." It has been my experience that too many members of the general public view York University as being in a state of perpetual crisis which does an injustice to the extraordinary achievements of this University. However, we face adjustments of the most serious kind and these are the concern and should be the responsibility of all members of the community.

Of course, York University is not alone in this predicament and it is important that the public should understand that fact. Should the general impression be created that

York alone faces these difficulties then our attractiveness to many potential students could be seriously threatened.

At the meeting of February 9th, I summarized several policy positions which, among others, I have put forward on behalf of the University:

1. The government is moving too quickly in trying to adjust the university system from the level appropriate in the Sixties to that which it perceives as appropriate in the mid-Eighties. Between now and then it appears that the Government intends to finance universities below the rate of inflation and real cost with an undoubted impact upon academic quality.
2. There is an implicit attempt to reduce the participation rate and the number of students going to universities. This could reduce the quality of educational opportunity in the province and, in turn, seriously affect the fulfillment of the basic objectives of the Government itself.
3. We have failed to achieve system-wide planning for the universities of the province which requires new forms of co-operation between the Ontario government, the Ontario Council on University Affairs, and the Council of Ontario Universities to avoid serious impairment to the university system.
4. Discrimination against foreign

visa students is unacceptable in the full sense of a university community.

There are several strategies which I suggest might be adopted, summarized as follows:

1. Financing should be related to real academic costs rather than student numbers;
2. Supplementary government funding from sources such as Wintario should be directed to universities on a matching principle against private sources of funds;
3. York University requires a communication strategy as well as a development strategy; this is presently under review by the Joint Board - Senate Executive Committee.
4. York University requires a campaign to encourage students of high academic quality, particularly through more adequate scholarship funds. This is also under active discussion with the Board of Governors;
5. We need to open up new opportunities for young academics to join the faculty and greater scope for exchanges, visitorships, and research fellowships for the present faculty.
6. We require urgent and explicit documentation of exactly how we might suffer in academic quality in order to convince the public of our present predicament.

The President of the University and the various University officials have an obligation to carry out the policies of the Board of Governors and the Senate. For some time I have felt that greater involvement in broad policy matters is required by the two official bodies to ensure that the views expressed by the University's officers are consistent with University policy. For that reason, we recently prepared a five-point programme placed before a joint meeting of the Executive Committees of the Board of Governors and the Senate on February 13th.

1. The Board Executive-Senate Executive should publish a list of the various activities undertaken and policy positions enunciated by the President and the Administration — in order to advise the University community and as a starting point for consideration and formulation of future strategy.

2. The Board Executive - Senate Executive, in conjunction with the Policy Committee, should meet to develop a policy strategy for the present and future of the University and as a guide to the administration in taking particular action.

3. The Board of Governors should pass a resolution expressing its concern about the inadequate level of funding for universities and the too rapid adjustment being imposed, without adequate planning; and ask Senate Executive to place a similar resolution before Senate.

4. York University should urge the Chairmen and Presidents of all Ontario Universities to join in seeking an urgent meeting with the Premier and Minister of Colleges and Universities and propose an urgent joint inquiry into the potential consequences of failure to plan adequately the future of the universities.

5. The President, on behalf of the Board and Senate, should urge the Presidents of the York University Unions to meet with the Board Executive-Senate Executive - Policy Committee to participate in the formulation of an all-university strategy.

This programme was prepared earlier this year but unfortunately, the joint meeting was delayed until certain matters had been discussed by Senate. However, the strength of the support for the University in its predicament, evident at the meeting on February 9th, reinforced our belief in moving in these directions.

The University is also considering the proposed march to Queen's Park and the closing of the University for that purpose, within the discussions bearing on general strategy. As I indicated at the meeting on February 9th, such matters are the business of the established policy bodies of the University and are not at the whim of the President.

Closing the University raises a number of administrative and legal matters which are the ultimate responsibility of the Board of Governors. Re-scheduling classes is a decision which requires the authorization of the Chairman of Senate. These matters are on the agenda of the Board - Senate Joint Strategy Committee for consideration prior to a final decision; they have certainly not been forgotten or overlooked as suggested last week in *Excalibur*.

In each instance, we must consider the effect of the University's behaviour on three audiences — the public, the politicians, and the media. Members of that Committee and of the administration are prepared to do anything that would enhance the University's reputation. However, a university's reputation is a delicate matter and requires the reasoned consideration of all of us.

Footnotes

You Inc.

Interest-free loans of up to \$1,000 are available for students who want to employ themselves for the summer through the Ontario Experience '78 Venture Capital Program. Applications and information are available by writing: Venture Capital, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1B9.

The Royal Bank of Canada and the Chamber of Commerce are offering guidance and assistance to hot-weather Horatio Algiers willing to risk a little.

Senesky

The Bernie Senesky Group appears tomorrow, March 3, in the Jazz in Bethune Series held at noon in the Junior Common Room.

Senesky is a Canadian pianist whose work and first record *New Life* have attracted enthusiastic response from leading American jazzmen and music magazines. He will be accompanied by Dave Piltch (bass), Marty Morell (vibes) and Keith Blackley (drums). Admission is free.

March: All Arts

Behold the Arts of March ... a kaleidoscope of free events and performances presented by the Faculty of Fine Arts from March 8 to 18.

An interdisciplinary production of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, directed by Dean Joseph Green, will be performed Tuesday, March 14 at 8 p.m. in McLaughlin Hall.

The Music Department is presenting a week of special events from March 12 to 18 in conjunction

with the Arts of March. Jazz, Indian music, chamber music, and some rarely-performed piano works by Charles Ives will be heard; the Thyagaraja festival of South Indian music closes the week March 18.

Other highlights: a production by the Theatre Department of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*; student workshop-performances and an open rehearsal for the Spring Concert, by the Dance department; talks on Canadian, horror films, and director Satyajit Ray, followed by free screenings, courtesy of the Film Department; an exhibition and sale of work by Visual Arts students in the IDA gallery; and the Rayfield Collection of Ethiopian Art in the Art Gallery of York University, Room N145 Ross.

The best way to keep tracks of all the events is to phone the office of the Dean, -3327, and ask for a schedule of "The Arts of March". An information booth will be manned daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the lobby of the Fine Arts building.

Women's Week

International Women's Week March 6-10, is being observed at York with a number of events including a benefit performance by W.O. Mitchell.

Prof. Mitchell, visiting professor in creative writing and writer-in-residence at York this year, will give a one-man display of his inimitable story-telling abilities Tuesday, March 7, at 8:00 p.m. in Burton Auditorium.

Admission is \$5.00 general, \$2.00 for students, and all proceeds go to help Nellie's, a downtown hostel for women in distress.

Other events during the week include a panel discussion on "What are Women Seeing Today?" with artists Alison Hymas, Maryon

Kantaroff, and Toby MacLennan, in the Zacks Gallery Stong College today at 8 p.m.

Readings from women writers will be given by York professors in the Zacks Gallery, Monday, March 6 from 12:15 to 1:30 pm. A poetry reading led by Himani Bannerji, with creative writing students is planned from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the York Women's Centre, 106 Stong College.

If you wish to read your own poetry during this event, please contact Charlotte Sykes at -3484 or Judy Stephens-Wells at -3055. Also at the Centre, Thursday, March 9 at 12:30 a commentary on "Women in Folk Songs" with recording, by Prof. Edith Fowke.

An international Women's Day Rally will be held in Moot Court, Osgoode, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. For further information call the York Women's Centre at -3172, or 3484.

Glendon Orchestra

Strike up the band! The Glendon Orchestra, in hibernation for two years, will awaken to the strings and winds of spring Saturday, March 18.

A reading rehearsal of Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 and other works is planned for 1 to 4 p.m. in Theatre Glendon. Musicians on or off campus are invited to attend, but should first reveal their chosen instrument to music director and conductor James McKay at -3825 weekdays, or manager Joan Harvey at 481-3159 any other time.

"Our aim is to make the Glendon Orchestra an inter-campus community chamber orchestra. We have already been invited to perform in Burton Auditorium next year by the Faculty of Fine Arts," Prof. McKay said.



One of the more venerable sculptures on display in the Tait McKenzie trophy case depicts a gentleman getting his kicks the healthy way. This may be the source of the phrase "sock'er to me."