

WARGA SPEAKS

Very recently York University's students were given the right to sit on a Board-Senate-Student committee and thereby given a voice in the governing of their university. We now have a responsibility - to do the best we can for our university and for ourselves. Let us take up this responsibility!

I have been given to understand by prominent members of our administration and faculty that York has a good academic reputation among other Universities and the business world. But do we merit this reputation? Are we producing knowledgeable, well-adjusted men and women or is this merely a Country Club with lounges, swimming pools and social activities, and a membership fee of \$550 a year.

There seems to be an impression among the students of this University that they can get by with only a minimal effort. I have found this view to be widespread and not without foundation. Let me give you some figures for the 1965-1966 failure rates at York and the University of Toronto.

	1st yr	2nd yr	3rd yr
U of T	16.0%	15.2%	6.0%
York	6.7%	7.3%	9.1%

Why should our failure rate be so low? Are we producing students of a lower calibre than the University of Toronto? Notice that as you progress at the U of T the failure rate decreases. The poorer students are weeded out as early as possible, whereas, we allow students to pass in first and even second year and

then discover that they are not 'college material'.

One of the reasons for our low first year failure rate (and also for second year) is the General Education courses. I definitely approve of Gen. Ed. courses for first year students, but not for second year students. Gen. Ed. courses are geared to a first year level, being broad introductory subjects which allow the freshman to develop his general interests. But the second year student should have available more stimulating and specific subjects.

The administration has, thankfully, reduced the number of Gen. Ed. requirements which is definitely a profitable step for our student body.

It is my opinion that the academic standards at York must be increased. This is a 'soft' University and it should not be. Our student body, according to administration statistics, are generally of a higher Grade XIII average than those at the University of Toronto.

York is a young University and in many ways an experimental one. Free time to get involved in extra-curricular activities is necessary to develop York's Whole Man (do you know what I am talking about) but we should, and definitely must improve the calibre of our finished products.

I am proud to be a York student. I feel it is the best there is - but it can be improved. But it will not be improved by students who enjoy being part of a subsidized Country Club.

intellectual community . . .



or country club??



Co-op residences can help us!

By Canadian University Press

Students and university administrators alike are finding there are no simple solutions to their housing problems these days.

University-sponsored housing projects are steadily becoming more difficult to finance, more expensive to build and always difficult to keep out of the red.

Rising labour costs, skyrocketing enrolments and tight-fisted university governors are blocking the road to residential campuses in Canada.

Many Canadian universities which offer listing services for off-campus housing are constantly at odds with gouging landlords who rent inadequate facilities to reluctant - and equally broke - students.

But this gloomy picture is being changed somewhat by the spread of co-operative housing projects across the country, as more and more student governments and university administrations work together following the lead set by universities like Waterloo and Toronto.

Campus co-operatives are nothing new. Twenty-nine years ago at the University of Toronto, Campus Co-operative Residences Inc. began operations with a rented attic and a few army cots.

Today, the corporation owns more than 50 dilapidated Victorian houses scattered around the outskirts of the university grounds, and is building a \$5,750,000, 20-storey residence building scheduled for completion in June of 1968.

Known as Rochdale College, this triple-towered structure will house 600 single students, 100 married couples and 50 faculty members. It is expected Rochdale eventually will become an educational, residential college.

At Waterloo, in a posh, two-year-old student co-operative, single accommodation can be had

for \$250 per trimester, or close to \$500 for a regular academic year. The Toronto co-op houses cost students about \$460 for single accommodation, including board.

One of the big incentives for building new residence co-operatives is coming from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In 1966, a change in mortgage lending permitted student residences to become eligible for CMHC money.

The Crown corporation now backs 90 per cent of a student residence mortgage, with private lenders furnishing the rest. A \$1.5 million, 15-storey married students' co-op at Dalhousie University scheduled for completion in September is being built under the legislation, and students there say their residence dream would not be near reality without the CMHC mortgage.

Some campuses are showing signs of getting into the co-op housing business in a big way these days while others are not. Here is a partial summary:

University of British Columbia: Last fall, UBC's students' society announced plans to hire an architect, borrow between \$500,000 and \$1 million and build a co-op. At UBC, it was reported last fall there were 1,400 students waiting for university-sponsored housing and an additional 5,500 looking for homes off-campus.

University of Alberta: In Edmonton, where university residences are going to lose an estimated \$17,000 this year despite government grants, and where residence dwellers will pay \$8 per month more this fall, university provost A.A. Ryan says, 'If students can come up with a scheme for co-op housing and show it to be financially feasible, it is all to the good of the university.' Last fall the university paid a student lead-

er's way to a co-op housing seminar at Waterloo, to show its faith in such a project.

University of Saskatchewan: A small group of Saskatoon students are trying to set up a pilot co-op, but observers say problems being encountered by students engaged in the same type of work at Regina are a discouragement.

University of Manitoba: This university is located in a suburban area of Winnipeg, where no old houses can be bought for co-ops, and thus far the university administration has been against the idea of co-op housing. Students have not as yet done any fighting for co-ops.

United College: Reports indicate there are no plans for extension of residence facilities, and co-op housing hasn't been considered.

St. Mary's University: No plans for co-op housing have been announced.

Memorial University: Co-op housing has been looked at by university administrators, but no detailed consideration has been given it. Memorial is planning to double existing residence facilities as soon as administrative and financial problems can be dealt with. About 370 students now live in residence there. No action by students is planned yet.

Social Committee needs volunteers

The Social Planning Committee needs people interested in helping a newly developing community to make the best use of its resources for its children. The new community is at Jane and Sheppard, a new low-income housing area which has, as yet, no programs set up for its youngsters. This area is convenient to the campus and the sort of help needed would provide good experience for anyone interested in social work, teaching or CUSO. Before York University can commit itself, the Social Planning Committee must know how many are interested in active participation. The program will not

really start till the '67 fall term but anyone available to do ground work over the summer is asked to contact the committee immediately. Those interested in any part of this program are asked to phone the committee as soon as possible with suggestions and promises of commitment. This is not a program for someone who cannot ensure helping at least one evening a week. In order to do anything effectively the committee must be able to depend on the students who volunteer. No experience is necessary--only willingness to help. If interested, please call: Jackie Arsenault 741-4036 or Gabi Baumgaertner 241-3625