

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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

Creative Writing and York

Frank Davey, director of York's new program in creative writing, sees a possible answer to York's shortfall in recruiting new students.

"The undergraduate program in creative writing, if it's working properly, will bring to the university students who would otherwise not come to university. Ideally, the university can offer the young writer a chance to serve his apprenticeship in a relatively friendly and helpful environment," Prof. Davey said.

The program, now in its second year of operation, is unique in being offered by both the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Fine Arts. Students registered in either Faculty may enroll, and if successful will receive a B.A. or B.F.A. in creative writing.

Prof. Davey is himself a well-known poet and literary critic, editor of the critical quarterly *Open Letter*, the series of translations of Quebec novels issued by Coach House Press, and the recently discovered Wyndham Lewis novel

Mrs. Duke's Millions.

In his view, there are two good reasons why beginning writers may choose York. "No other Ontario university has this kind of program — many Ontario students want to take this kind of course but don't know that there's one available — and at York we have a real constellation of creative writers, a greater number of acknowledged first-rank writers than at the University of Victoria, which has a larger number of courses," he explained.

The program is essentially a re-organization of the resources and many of the courses already available at York, said Prof. Davey. "We have an economy model. Creative writing was born at York after the first financial restraints. It was clear right from the beginning that we couldn't afford a separate creative writing division," he explained.

"The philosophy was to create a creative writing program by con-

solidating existing courses. We had a large number of creative writers on campus, and a large number of creative writing courses before the program was started.

"The only courses we've added to mount the program have been two fiction courses in third and fourth year given by W.O. Mitchell, visiting professor this year, and one fourth year poetry course," Prof. Davey said.

At present some fifty students are registered in the program on a conditional basis, taking their first year of creative writing courses during their second year of university studies. Ten students are creative writing majors in third or fourth year.

Courses given by the departments of English, Film, Philosophy, Linguistics and Theatre are listed along with some offered by the division of Humanities.

Unfortunately, this year the program cannot make use of visiting writer-teachers or guest lecturers

since it does not have its own budget. Instead, readings are scheduled with the help of the Canada Council, so that students have a chance to hear, and question, a variety of Canadian writers.

Students in the program must take a certain number of workshops and cross-listed courses, but are free to choose their remaining credits from "as esoteric a range as they want," said Prof. Davey, as long as they can convince their advisor of the relevance to their writing aims.

What do students do with their writing skills and degree once they've graduated? Many of the present students hope to go on to editing work in literary presses to support their writing, Prof. Davey stated.

"We have some good student writers who are already publishing professionally. One of our students has already started his own little press, which is exactly what I think they should be doing. Many of them have developed ties with the Toronto literary community, through the small presses, *Only Paper Today*, and so on.

"I'm also planning a course which will teach all the practical aspects of publishing, right from

copy-editing to running a small offset press, binding, and distributing," Prof. Davey said.

His regrets at present are that the program cannot afford to spend more on advertising and publicity, and that it is difficult, due to faculty association concern about lessening the number of full-time permanent faculty appointments, to set up a couple of permanent positions which various writers interested in "a full year of teaching every three or four years" could share through rotation.

But Prof. Davey obviously enjoys the challenges of directing an exciting program with no budget, and the Creative Writing program seems certain to contribute to the Canadian literary future, as well as adding another attraction for new students to come to York.

"It seems to me that creative writing is one of the particular areas that York should be capitalizing on. Because York and the University of Toronto serve the same community, York needs to define particular initiatives in which it can do well. If the University doesn't define itself in ways that distinguish it, then the government and community may not continue to see any need for it," he concluded.

Footnotes

Who Has Seen the W. O.?

A One-Man Literary Show featuring the distinguished Canadian novelist W.O. Mitchell is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, at 8 p.m. in the Moot Court of Osgoode Hall Law School.

Mr. Mitchell, author of *Who Has Seen the Wind*, *Jake and the Kid*, *The Kite*, and *The Vanishing Point*, is a visiting professor at York this year and currently is directing senior fiction students in York's Program in Creative Writing. He has designed, and participated in, experimental programs in creative writing in the Winnipeg public schools and at the Banff School of Fine Arts.

Admission to the show is free.

Encounter Canada

Vanier College presents a free conference entitled "Encounter Canada — Challenge to Confederation" January 25 and 26. The conference is co-sponsored by students of the college and the Secretary of State. Chairing panels will be York president H. Ian MacDonald and York faculty members Harry S. Crowe and Thomas Travis.

Panellists and speakers include Nova Scotia premier Gerald Reagan, Ed Schreyer, leader of the opposition in Manitoba, Evelyn Dumas, editor of *Le Jour*, writer W.O. Mitchell, and historians Ramsay Cook and S.M. Crean. For further information and tickets, call Vanier College at local -2323.

South Indian Music

Two concerts of South Indian classical music can be heard at York this month.

Vocalist Jon Higgins will perform with T. Viswanathan on the flute, Trichy Sankaran on the mrdangam, and Gail Goldberg on the tanpura

Tuesday, January 24, at 8 p.m. in McLaughlin College Senior Common Room.

This will be one of Mr. Higgins' last performances at York as he recently accepted an academic appointment in the United States and will be leaving York at the end of this academic year.

On January 26, also at 8 p.m. the Bethune World Music Series presents the same ensemble, but without vocal accompaniment, in Room 320 of Bethune College.

Admission to both concerts is free.

Capitalist State Talks

Professor of Politics at the University of Leeds, Ralph Miliband will be giving three lectures on "The Capitalist State" at Glendon College March 29, 30, 31. The lectures are open to all those interested.

Prof. Miliband is Visiting Professor of Sociology at Brandeis University this year and co-editor of *The Socialist Register*. He has published several books: *Parliamentary Society*, *The State and Marxism and Politics*. For further information call Prof. Ellen Wood, Department of Political Science, Glendon College at 487-6126.

Ontario-Quebec Exchange

Outstanding students from Ontario are offered an opportunity to live, study and work in Quebec as Ontario-Quebec Fellows with funding from the Ontario-Quebec Permanent Commission.

Ten fellowships, with a value of \$6,000 each for master's level students, \$8,000 for doctoral students, and \$12,000 for post-doctoral candidates, will be available for the 1978-79 academic year.

To be eligible, a student must be a permanent resident of Ontario, a Canadian citizen or landed im-

migrant for at least one year, and intend to register in September at a university in Quebec as a full-time student in the first year of a program leading to a master's or PhD degree or in the first year of post-doctoral studies.

To apply, contact the Ontario-Quebec Exchange Fellowship Program, Student Awards Branch, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 2B4.

Completed application forms must be received by the Ministry by January 31.

Gulf Oil \$

Gulf Oil Canada, Ltd. is offering nine graduate fellowships, each with a value of \$5,500, to candidates in business and management studies, computer science, mathematics or any of the sciences related to the petroleum industry.

A successful candidate, who must be a Canadian citizen or have held immigrant status for at least one year, will receive \$4,500 of the fellowship; \$1,000 will be given to the relevant department of the receiving university where the Fellow is registered.

Further information is available from the Awards Officer, National Programs Division, AUCC, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ont., K1P 5N1. The deadline date for application is March 1.

CMHCFunds

There's even more money to study: scholarships for 1978-79 will be awarded by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for full-time study in fields related to housing and the housing environment.

The scholarship program is divided into two competitions, the University Competition for students applying through a university for support in a graduate degree program, and the Open Competition.

Applications must be submitted by March 15. To apply, write to the Administrative Officer, Scholarships, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0P7.

Student Input Wanted

How do you, as a student, feel about your divisional courses? Are the courses you take in humanities, social science and natural science great or terrible?

A committee headed by Professor C. David Fowle, biology, has been examining these courses since last February and wants to hear from students who have taken them. The committee, established by Dean of Arts Sydney Eisen, is responsible for reporting on the effectiveness, and relationship to other levels of education of the divisional courses in such areas as class size, appropriateness of material related to Grade 13 and community college courses, and teaching effectiveness.

Most of the courses are part of study options such as "Caribbean studies" and are given at the 100 (first-year) level, but divisional courses also exist at second and third-year levels. "The most suitable format for a student's comments would be a letter to myself or any committee member" said Professor Fowle. "If a student doesn't feel like writing he could also call any of the members."

Letters may be sent to the

committee care of Mrs. Marla Chodak, secretary to the Dean of Arts, S935, Ross Building. The committee members, who have already discussed divisional courses extensively with faculty members and instructors, are: Kathryn Koenig, associate professor psychology, Arts; Martin Muldoon, associate professor of mathematics, Arts; Richard Storr, professor of history and humanities, Arts; and Annabel Patterson, associate professor of English, Arts.

Student suggestions and recommendations are also sought by the Search Committee for a Dean of Arts.

The present Dean, Sydney Eisen, will be concluding his duties June 30, 1978. The Committee invites suggestions from all members of the Faculty of Arts, but is particularly concerned that students have a say.

Mr. Romano Roman, a fourth year specialized Honours student in Philosophy, is the student committee member. Enquiries and recommendations should be addressed to: The Secretary, Search Committee for a Dean of Arts, S936 Ross Building.



Name this double profile and win an organic icicle. Could it be Janus, two-faced god of the month who watches the old year leave and the new enter?