Mac defends York

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structure which allows top students with initiative to specialize in particular fields of their choice, and at the same time is flexible enough to cater to students who want a good, well-rounded education.

Master of Vanier College Michael Creal perceives the financial problems York and other Ontario universities face as highly complex and entangled.

"They know at Queens' Park that the universities are suffering, but they too are caught in a dilemna," said Creal.

Money is tight everywhere. Times have changed and there just isn't as much money around as in previous times. The old phrase "more scholar for the dollar" appears to have come back due to economic expediency. But Creal believes that the Ontario government doesn't want to ruin the university system so its financial support won't be allowed to continue to erode.

York, as Professor Creal perceives it, is a good place to get an education and is at least on par with other Canadian universities in academic excellence. York's strengths are its multiculturalism, course flexibility and the institution's courage to experiment.

Stan Fisher of York's Communications branch thinks"the public doesn't give a damn" about York's and other Ontario universities' financial concerns, which translates into Macdonald said.

governmental lack of concern and inaction. After all, education is not apopular issue which sways voters.

Also, our greatest asset at York, flexibility, is being lost, according to Fisher. No new faces and no new ideas will have an opport unity to get inside and be expressed as the university becomes rigid. The end result is that we will all "grow old locked together," said Fisher.

But this is in the future. Today, President Ian Macdonald thinks that York has a relatively young faculty. Canadian universities as a whole are on equal academic footing with any university in the world.

If there is an abundance of

Macdonald: "Canadians are very good at punishing themselves in quality and comparison."

criticism at home, it is because "Canadians are very good at punishing themselves in quality and comparison," said Macdonald. One must go abroad to find out how highly our universities are regarded. There is hardly anywhere in the world where people don't know about our scholars, our research and our reputation,

A possible explanation for our lack of Nobel prize winners may be that the procedure may be somewhat faulty.*If we were to take Canada's ten best scholars, President Mcdonald feels that they would be as good as any other ten in the world.

Macdonald does feel that Canadalacksthelargefinancial capacity which other countries possess. Combined with our high inflation, it has made public constraint necessary, especially in Ontario. This constraint has hit the Ontario universities.

This year, Ontario universities received the lowest per capita support in the country. Our grants went up 6.5%, while Quebec's, for example, went up 13%. This constraint will have serious consequences for the country in the future, according to Macdonld.

When one constrains the universities, one is' constraining the nation in terms of development.'

Macdonald said universities are in difficult times, but it certainly wasn't planned. It is a "crude consequence of lower funds."

But Macdonald is optimistic about the future. As it' now stands York University is working at full capacity, both day and night. He said we are now living at a crossroads. With proper management and more funding, York can attain whatever academic ground it may have lost during the imposed economic constraint in the past few years.

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