

Emergency Services Centre - 3333

University

CUA brief: research basic to universities

The following is an excerpt from York University's forthcoming brief to the Committee on University Affairs. The report was approved by the Senate at its Oct. 28 meeting.

The combination of research and active scholarship with teaching, is fundamental to the definition of a university.

The knowledge explosion of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has brought about a universal distinction between two kinds of institutions dedicated to higher education: In the one institution teaching is entirely a matter of transmitting received knowledge; in the other institution the transmission of knowledge is in the hands of individuals who are themselves actively engaged in the generation of new knowledge and insight.

Any reduction in the emphasis on research in the universities will produce pressures to convert them to the type of institution that is dedicated to the passive handing on of received information. There would then cease to be universities. The question of whether a community can afford university research really comes down to the question of whether a community can afford universities.

Complex requirements

For many purposes the transmission of received knowledge is perfectly adequate. But a fast-changing society with complex and highly specialized requirements for trained men and women cannot do without the kind of education that only the teacher actively engaged in research and scholarship can give.

The fact that so much of this type of education is carried on in the graduate schools should not make us forget the critical role which it plays also in the modern undergraduate program with its increasing em-

phasis on active rather than passive learning.

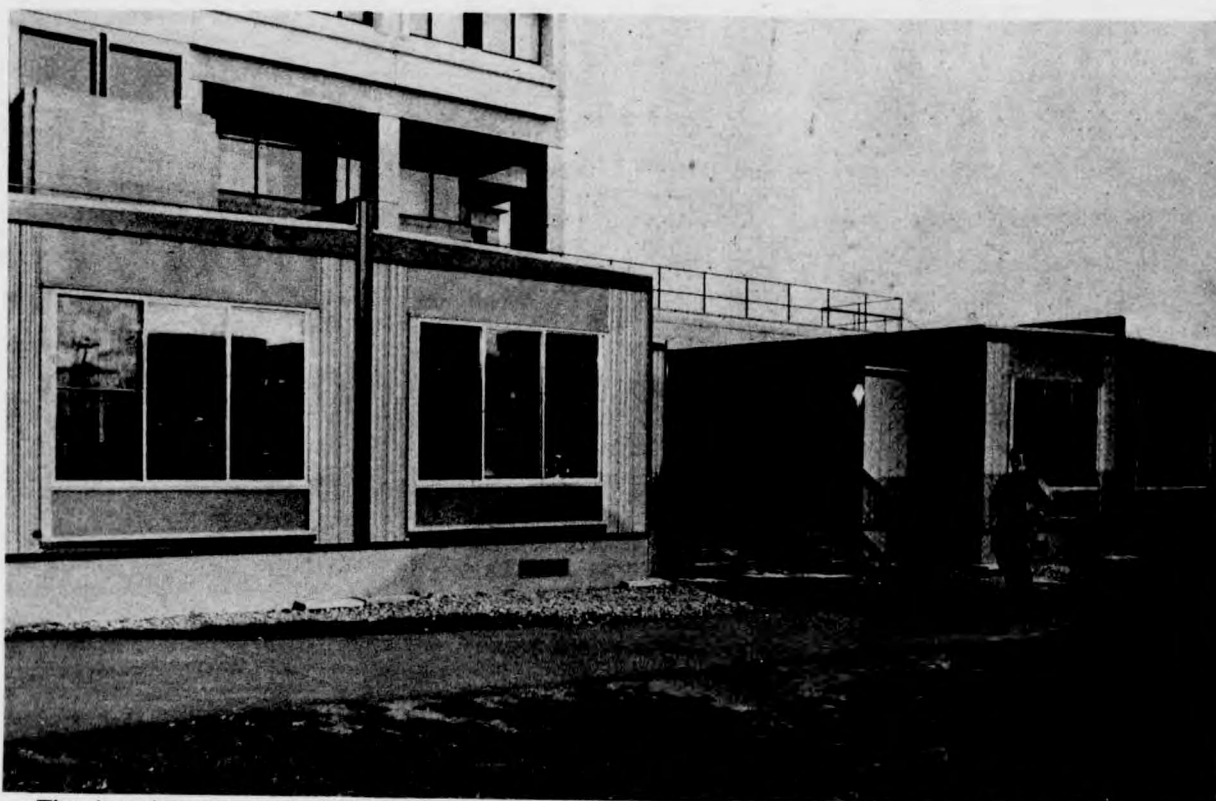
Because scholars generally accept a definition of the university which involves a combination of teaching and research and because they are highly mobile people, it becomes extremely difficult to attract them to and to hold them at institutions which de-emphasize research. Significant reductions in the relative level of research support will produce migratory pressures among academics and in many cases it will be those whom the country can least afford to lose who will be among the first to go. The rate of return of Canadian scholars completing their training abroad will be similarly reduced.

International markets

Ontario universities operate in an international market for academic talent. A reduction in their emphasis on research will simply make them less competitive in that market and will force them to accept a second and third-rate position. In due course this would be reflected in a reduction in the quality of the graduates produced by these institutions.

This in turn would lead to a deterioration in the services which these graduates provide for the community. The higher the level of skill and training the more apparent these effects would be. Among other things, the country would inevitably become more, rather than less dependent on foreign trained personnel for providing much of the high level expertise that it can no longer do without.

There is no evidence that an emphasis on research at the expense of teaching has ever become the significant problem at Ontario universities that it became at some centres in the United States. By and large, research scholars in Canada choose a university affiliation



The two temporary buildings shown above have caused some confusion among members of the York community since they were erected a few weeks ago. Both are used by the Faculty

of Fine Arts — one as a studio for jazz ensembles; the other for rehearsals by theatre groups.

because they wish to be involved in teaching.

If research at the universities were to be de-emphasized, the educational contribution of some first-rate scholars would be lost. The possible channeling of a greater proportion of available research funds to non-university institutions would lead to an undesirable split between training and actual research involvement which would be to the benefit of neither.

Alternatively, a de-emphasis on research in the universities could be seen as part of an overall reduction in the social commitment to basic research. The wisdom of such a reduction must be judged on its own merits and should not be coupled with the question of applied research.

Long-term investment

It is difficult to see why basic research should be chosen among a multitude of possible sources to pay for more applied research. Basic research represents a long-term social investment off which applied research must live, not least in terms of the excellence of training which basic research provides. In the long run the quality of applied research will be very seriously affected by any significant reduction of basic research.

Finally, the issue of university-based research should not be treated simply as a problem in social investment. In advanced societies the contribution which various institutions make to the quality of life is being considered to an increasing

extent in judging the level of social support on which they have a claim.

It is difficult to over-estimate the ramifications of university-based research and scholarship when they are evaluated in this context. Under present conditions it would be impossible to avoid some impoverishment of the cultural life of the community if the research involvement of its universities were to be reduced.

From a financial point of view, a reduction in the availability of external research funds would set up highly undesirable pressures within the universities to increase the proportion of the university budget devoted to the support of research. The most likely outcome is that both research and teaching would suffer as a consequence.

Odds & Sodds

Authors and books

Authors and Books, a series of evenings with Canadian authors, is currently being held at the Richview Library, 1806 Islington Avenue. This evening Toronto author Marian Engel discusses her novels, *No Clouds of Glory* and *The Honeymoon Festival*.

On November 18 Prof. James Lorimer, Osgoode Hall Law School Professor and Toronto artist Myfanwy Phillips will review *Working People; Life in a Downtown City Neighborhood*, a study of daily life in the Donvale area of Toronto prepared by Dr. Lorimer during his residence there. Miss Phillips illustrated the book.

Judge William Little will review *The Thom Thomson Mystery* his research into the life and mysterious death of that artist, on December 2. Admission to Authors and Books is

50 cents for one evening and all programs begin at 8:00 p.m.

Gestalt therapy

Jorge Rosner of the Chicago Gestalt Institute, one of the foremost exponents of Gestalt Therapy in North America, will give a workshop on "Innovative Approaches to Gestalt Therapy", sponsored by the EGO Programme of the Centre for Continuing Education. The workshop will take place November 20 and 21.

Mr. Rosner will also give a public talk "An Evening of Discovery" at the OISE Auditorium, 25 Bloor Street West on Friday, November 19 at 8:30 p.m. Information on how to register for the workshop and how to obtain tickets for "An Evening of Discovery" is available from the EGO programme, 635-3276.

Biblical paintings

The Art Gallery of Stong College

with Peter Shore, Director, will present work by Hannah Sandberg on Wednesday, November 10 through Saturday, November 13 and Wednesday, November 17 through Saturday, November 20, 1971 at Stong College, York University, 4700 Keele St. (at Steeles) Downsview, Ontario.

Hannah Sandberg has developed in her paintings, a unique idiom, utilizing Hebrew wording and calligraphy as image-producing elements in her interpretive expression of Biblical themes.

Athletic memberships

A special athletic membership for the spouse of any full-time student at York University is now available at the cost of \$5.00 for the period of the university year, September 15 to April 30, each year. Applications for such membership must be completed by the student and are available at the counter of the Accounts Office. The membership entitles the spouse of the student to use the facilities of the Tait McKenzie Building and the Ice Arena during recreational periods. It is regretted that lockers and towel service are not available to those members because locker space is completely filled.

Quote of the week

Family trees are apt to be questionable about the roots.
—Sir William Van Horne, to Lady Nicholson 1909

Science students needed

The Alternative and Independent Study Program, North York Board of Education's unique experiment in urban secondary education, will provide courses in biology, chemistry, physics and environmental science at the 11, 12 and 13 grade levels.

Baxter Garcia, a former York student and now a teacher responsible for the science program at this new experimental high school, reports that he is looking for students (graduate and undergraduate) with a background in science at the post-secondary level, who are willing to volunteer several hours a week to act as "catalysts" in the learning process.

These student volunteers will have the opportunity to assist in all phases of the science program, working with individual students or small groups, in lectures, seminars and laboratories. Interested persons are asked to call Baxter Garcia at 222-3371.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Royal Bank of Canada has announced the competition for its annual award of \$50,000, to honour "a Canadian citizen or person domiciled in Canada, whose outstanding achievement is of such importance that it is contributing to human welfare and the common good."

The range of activity is extremely broad, covering the natural and social sciences, and the arts and humanities, as well as the business and industrial world.

To be considered for the Award, aspirants must be nominated by two or more persons. Nominations must be submitted by 29th February 1972.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Bowman, Room N. 923, Ross Building.

German Academic Exchange Service Fellowships will be available for the academic year 1972 to Canadian citizens and university graduates. Field of study is unrestricted except for pharmacy, chemical engineering and specialized fields of agricultural research. The duration of the Fellowship is 12 months commencing October 1, 1972. Candidates should have a good knowledge of German since the final admission of selected candidates to a German university is conditional upon passing another language examination at the host institution.

The scholarship is tenable at universities, technical universities, scientific institutions, and academies of art of music in the Federal Republic of West Germany. Closing date of receipt of completed applications is December 31. Further information and application forms are available from the Director of Awards, AUCC, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P5N1.

International film series

"Thursday Night Filmfare", a series of films rarely seen in Canada, begins next Thursday at 8:30 in Cinema L, Curtis Lecture Halls with "Lola Montes", most complex and brilliant film of the Viennese director Max Ophuls.

Calcutta director Satyajit Ray directed the second film, "Days and Nights in the Forest", which will be shown on January 6. A tale of young people and their encounters on a holiday, the film captures the texture and tone of the Indian country life in a time of peace.

"Mandabi", directed by talented African director Ousmane Sembene,

reflects the director's own viewpoint as he presents a canvas unknown to the West; Africa observed and understood by her own people, with grace, style, and humour. "Mandabi" will be shown on February 10.

The last film of "Thursday Night Filmfare" will be a new film from the Soviet Union which will be shown on March 2.

Subscriptions to the entire film series will cost York students \$4.50 and Staff \$6.00. Individual tickets are \$1.75 and \$1.50 for staff and students respectively. Call Burton Auditorium at 635-2370 for more details.