

Macdonald on: matters financial, his foresight and whether he'll finish the job

By Hugh Westrup

EXCALIBUR: What's rewarding in being university president?

Macdonald: I think you either believe in the importance of the university or you don't. I have believed for a long time that education is an absolute top priority and the university is very important in the field of education.....

So, if you believe fundamentally in the importance of the institution and secondly you believe that it is important that it survive and do well, then that's the source of satisfaction, seeing if you can make some contribution.

EXCALIBUR: Could you be more specific about the duties of the new vice-president?

Macdonald: I thought (My statements) were highly specific, because they describe the daily job. You start with the proposition that there is an ongoing requirement in the university for a plan of its academic future, for the determination of what the resource requirements of different programs are, how the programs can be integrated, how new initiatives can be developed, how those new initiatives relate to the ongoing activities of the university."

In our policy meeting every week we identify perhaps half a dozen issues or more that require work analysis followed through, preparation of further input, and similarly with the senate's committee on academic policy and planning.

Now, in earlier years in the university when we had more flexibility and were not under the same degree of financial constraint, there was a feeling that we really didn't need have someone applying themselves in a full time way to those questions. Now that we're under greater constraint it becomes important that someone is devoting time to following through in great detail those questions, and helping us to cope with them.

EXCALIBUR: What is the estimated cost of the new vice presidency?

Macdonald: It all depends on who the person is and how the appointment is made. For example, if it's someone who is already within the academic community here, then, depending on the area that that person came from, it only requires an additional stipend, the salary of a secretary and equipment for the office.....

That could be as little as \$30,000 or it might be \$50,000. There's absolutely no way of determining that until you decide on who and what.

EXCALIBUR: I would think that this would be a major point of consideration; that we would know how much a new vice-presidency

would cost before we established the position. Macdonald: Well in an ideal world that would be right but there's really no way in the particular situation that we could do that.

EXCALIBUR: Why is this Friday's board meeting closed to the public?

Macdonald: Because when the board established the open meeting it said that it would reserve the right to have closed meetings on some matters of personnel or confidential matters that they wanted to deal with. They always reserve that right.

EXCALIBUR: What is the nature topic of Friday's meeting?

Macdonald: I think that's something you should address to the chairman of the board, but when they've had the meeting, any

conclusions they've made, they'll make them known.

EXCALIBUR: I believe the topic is the Atkinson dean search controversy?

Macdonald: That's the main point.

EXCALIBUR: You've said the board is "strong minded." Do you foresee the board modifying its demands to Atkinson?

Macdonald: I don't know. How could I anticipate that until they've decided it.

EXCALIBUR: You know the board better than I. You're part of it. How strong minded are they?

Macdonald: I think the fact that the recommendations I took at that time were not acceptable indicates that the board holds to that position very strongly. When they've looked at any other alternatives or ways of achieving reconciliation, it may be possible to find them.

EXCALIBUR: According to figures prepared by the Ontario Council of University Libraries, York's library ranks as one of the poorest in the province. What was your reaction to this report?

Macdonald: I think that's basically true. Many of us have been saying for the past few years that we have to give the library a higher priority. I've said to our policy committee this year that we should attempt to work for major improvements in the libraries share of our overall budget. We've also indicated that it should be a high priority in the future fund raising campaign.

EXCALIBUR: Last year the library was cut by \$228,000. The director of the library has said that a cut of over \$100,000 this year would mean the termination of major services such as the closing of Frost library. Will you tolerate the termination of major services?

Macdonald: Putting the question that way is rather personal.

I think in order to answer that question it's important to understand how decisions are made.



President Macdonald in his office during the Monday morning interview.



"I thought I was pretty damned outspoken"

We have a university policy committee which is meeting at great length, which consists of the vice-presidents, the deans and the director of libraries.

What we're doing is trying to decide the overall magnitude of reductions this year and where they should apply. In that process there is decision making which involves judgement on where reductions are to come and to what extent they're to be. In part those decisions are influenced by what we believe to be the prospects for assisting certain areas and private fund raising and so on. So that the question is that if as a result of our decisions, if we decide that the library should be more relatively valued than some areas, or decide that it shouldn't do as well as some other areas, then that will be the consequence of those decisions.

EXCALIBUR: You must have the power to stop a cut to the libraries of a harmful magnitude?

Macdonald: You have the power to stop anything if you have the wherewithal to do it. But if we decide that the library is not going to be cut then we're deciding that something else is. It's a two-sided sword. I suppose the president is free to take any recommendation he likes to the board of governors for implementation but you have to do that in the light of all consequences.

EXCALIBUR: What is the funds fund raising target for Fine Arts Phase III?

Macdonald: You could talk over a pretty wide range from \$5 to \$12 million.

EXCALIBUR: U of T has taken in a substantial amount of money by fund raising through alumni donations. Why hasn't York been as successful in relative terms when you take into account the age of the schools and the size of the alumni?

Macdonald: The university hasn't put nearly enough resources at the disposal of building an effective alumni organization. It's a very difficult job that takes a lot of work and building a network, maintaining a mailing list, arranging functions, . All of it takes money. I've said to my colleagues that we've got to be prepared to make an investment to build a more supportive alumni network.

EXCALIBUR: Since the YUSA strike there has been considerable mistrust about salaries. People think administrators may be paid too much but they don't know for sure because the figures aren't available. To clear up misperceptions and justify higher level salary positions why don't you publish a breakdown of salaries?

Macdonald: The university policy has always been that individual salaries should be private and not public. I don't know to what extent that's an important principle. You could go the other route, and say everyone's salary should be published, and I don't know if there are any great hazards in that or not.

EXCALIBUR: Why has York been close-mouthed about salaries?

Macdonald: This seems to have been the convention in Ontario. Perhaps people are less curious in Ontario. I really don't know why that system was started.

EXCALIBUR: Do you think it would clear up mistrust among the unions, if salaries were publicized. People say, "look at the administrators, they have big salaries," yet we don't know.

Macdonald: It's possible that people don't know the situation and if they did they would feel a lot happier. You may have a point. The main point is that I don't think any group within this university has a salary structure that is out of line with the relative salary

structure among those groups with the system.

EXCALIBUR: What was your salary increase in percentage figures last year?

Macdonald: Considerably less than anyone else in the university. That is something I felt was appropriate when I came here and I don't expect everyone else to follow that example but I felt it should apply to some of the higher salaries and of course those were all constrained throughout the period of the anti-inflation board.

EXCALIBUR: Will you tell me what your salary is?

Macdonald: I don't see why I should. It's not something that is of any great importance in the scheme of things.

EXCALIBUR: Why doesn't the university freeze higher level salaries in times of fiscal constraint.

Macdonald: That's a good question. In

McMurtry lays down the law

By L. Andrew Cardozo

"In my view its simply that one has to be unhappy about any adult activity male or female that exploits children," said Attorney-General Roy McMurtry, with regards to the Body Politic court case.

McMurtry was speaking at a session organized by the York Progressive Conservative Club on Friday February 16. During the two hour session the audience ranged in number from twenty to fifty.

He began with a somewhat bland speech on his role as Attorney-General and Solicitor-General. His blandness gives rise to questioning his ability to be Davis' successor, a position he is often touted for. The question-answer period, however, was more relevant.

Regarding the acquittal in the Body Politic court case over the article "Men loving boys, loving men," he said he would have to read the judgement in detail, and would "hear the views of my senior law officers," before deciding whether to appeal the case.

"Its something we're going to have to consider, and consider seriously. I am concerned about any action that we take that will be perceived as some sort of harassment of the homosexual community.

If they republished the article while the case was under appeal, he said, "theoretically they could be charged again."

He said he personally found it offensive because "of the context that deals with the Big Brother movement."

With regard to the Keith Richards case he said that he felt the judgement was inappropriate, "because part of any sentence has to deal with, what we refer to as the deterrent aspect generally, in the community."

"I happen to be personally satisfied that it is not only destructive to the individual but has very destructive consequences for society," and by way of explanation added rather brashly, "because society pays for heroin addiction, so we as a society have said that possession of heroin is going to be treated very seriously."



Gay activist George Hislop

By Greg Saville
"If you think your body is yours and you can do with it what you will, well you're wrong," said George Hislop of the Community Homophile Association of Toronto at the Bearpit on Tuesday. "The state has a vested interest." He was outlining the bias of laws against homosexuals in Canada.

"One cop has told me he was financing his trip to Hawaii with court time from prosecution of gays," said Hislop. He cited 52nd and 14th metro police divisions as being worst for harassment of gays.

A spokesman from Metro Police said Monday that though there are a great number of gay bars and establishments around 52nd division, he knew of no instances of discrimination against gays.

Hislop was part of an open discussion sponsored by Harbinger as part of its Awareness Week. He was joined by Roselyn Rogers from the Lesbian Association of Toronto, and Michael Laking representing the Toronto Lambda Business Council.

Discussing laws which discriminate against gays, Hislop referred to indecency and how it's presently interpreted under the jurisdiction of individual judges.

"Straight people are affected by the same laws gay people are," he emphasized.

Laking, a former manager for the Toronto Hospital Staff Credit Union Ltd., moved to Toronto from North Bay eight years ago to become Canada's youngest credit union manager. He talked about twenty minutes on Tuesday. He is gay.

In January he came out of the closet after doing an interview with the *Toronto Star* the result of which, he says, eventually forced him to resign from his job.

"The day after the *Star's* story, I was asked by my board of directors to produce a handwritten letter saying I wasn't being hassled by the credit union because I was gay, but I refused." Immediately after this, he explained, his regular workload increased to

Two Gay speakers tell of persecution and bitterness in Toronto

the point where he was forced to resign. "It was if one whole months work was being compiled into one week. I even tried to keep up by using vallium for awhile, but it didn't work." His weekly earnings since have gone from \$440 to \$100.

Recently he has lost not only personal friends, but also his house and car. This has happened, he says, because his employers discovered he was gay.

"But I guess I can't be bitter for ever," he concluded.

By Lydia Pawlenko

Traditional religion is dead in the eyes of many people turning to cults and para-religious movements, according to two specialists in the field of contemporary religion.

In the midst of a surge of interest in cults, prompted by the Jonestown massacre, Professor Fred Bird of Concordia University and Frances Bird, an Associate Professor at University of Western Ontario, have found sudden topicality in their research on new religious and para-religious movements. As guests of the Atkinson Sociology Department, they shared some fascinating findings in the second annual Maurice Manel Memorial Lecture held Tuesday night.

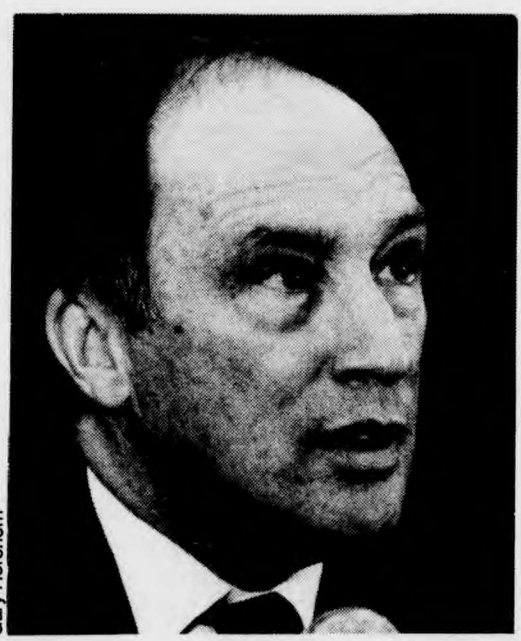
Non-traditional religious movements have been widely suspected because of their newness and difference, yet an estimated twenty per cent of the Canadian population is peripherally involved.

The Birds collected data on 45 movements in the Montreal area.

Fred Bird, once active in the Methodist ministry, explained that the team's reason for studying ritual in contemporary cults is "because ritual is intrinsically an aspect of religious activity, and because sociologists have left this study to anthropology."

"In most cases, these groups are less totalitarian than many religious groups, for example the Mormons. Dangers lie in the charismatic authority when it is not guided by any rules or traditions. The groups may not have anything corrective within them. It is 'ise to keep an eye on examples of physical coercion, tax exemption and recruiting techniques in all groups, including non-religious groups as well," Fred Bird replied.

Trudeau tells Osgoode crowd that he'll get a mandate for constitutional change and that he'll win in Quebec



By L. Andrew Cardozo

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said he is going to be patient with the amending of the constitution at "the next meeting of the Premiers before going about it unilaterally."

Trudeau was speaking at Osgoode Hall last Thursday, at the invitation of the Osgoode based Committee for Constitutional Debate. A crowd of about 800 crammed Moot Court while another 200 watched on close-circuit TV in the main lobby.

The session, which was designed to be on the constitution, began with questions from Osgoode professors Walter Tarnopolsky and Peter Hogg. The interrogation by these two academics turned out to be disappointingly bland. Basically Pierre Trudeau had missed his chance to air his sagacity in the company of intellectuals. The philosopher king was nevertheless witnessed at the behest of student questioning, leaving the audience wondering whether Joe Clark or Ed Broadbent could do the same.

Trudeau indicated that after the next Federal-Provincial conference, if he were still Prime Minister, he would act unilaterally in amending some parts of the constitution.

"An increasing number of people during an election process will see it doesn't make sense (to wait for unanimity) and then they'll give me a mandate to do something."

Here he revealed what is likely to be a central plank in his party's platform for the upcoming election.

He belittled the Parti Quebecois position saying, "they want to have their cake and eat it too. If you want independence, fine. If you want association, that's federalism." Taking the opportunity to amuse the audience he added, "I won't negotiate the squaring of the circle. If you want to negotiate, get lost."

Sensing the sportive mood of the crowd, he continued:

"Mr. Levesque says if he lost it (the referendum) he'd have a second one. What kind of mug's game is that? I told him, 'Let's make a deal. If you win, I resign. If I win you resign,' because I know I'm going to win."

On the question of the Monarchy he said, it is "performing a positive role. I'm not so sure that changing that system would be a unifying force," playfully adding "why get rid of her? she's good, she's great, she's nice...."

In an answer regarding human rights he candidly stated that he could not "think of any right that is so basic that the community won't infringe on it in certain circumstances."

Answering a question on education, he pointed out that, at the last Federal-Provincial conference, the funding of a national post-secondary education was on his government's list. "For political reasons I was argued out of that. The provinces are hypersensitive about education," he said.

Regarding powers that the Federal government wanted to maintain, Trudeau said he was not willing to give up family

other periods of time when universities have had difficulties, this was the decision that the institutions took to protect jobs. They would hold the line on and it's position that I've felt myself that on the record has been the practice of this university over the last few years.

We have tried to maintain jobs with the result that our salary structure has been less than some universities....

EXCALIBUR: In November of 1977 you said in a letter to the YUFA chairman, "I do not believe we face a crisis; rather, in company with universities in many parts of the world, we are experiencing the need to adjust to new circumstances." In relation to what you've said recently about York being unworthy of the name university in the future, doesn't your earlier statement show a serious lack of foresight?

Macdonald: No, I think they're entirely consistent because what I was saying there was people were using the term crisis and to me a crisis is if you're standing outside and you look up and you see a ton of concrete-falling on your head. What I was saying then is that I don't think we face a crisis in the sense that the house is burning down or that we've got two days to live or any of these excitable kinds of situations.

What I've been saying from the time of the first speech I gave about York and consistent throughout is that without adequate planning, with underfunding, without a rational management of the university, there is a danger that we could reach a position where we're a university in name only.

EXCALIBUR: Why don't you crusade, make statements to the public, use the press to all your advantages?

Macdonald: I'm doing that every week of the year.

EXCALIBUR: I'm sure that if you declared that York's library was in serious condition people would listen.

Macdonald: That's what I've indicated.

Macdonald: I think all of us in this business are doing as well as we can. I have no brief with the amount of speeches and statements I've made. I think everyone would like to have more. I think this is not something over which one has a great deal of control.

EXCALIBUR: Could it be that a high profile over cutbacks could injure your ambitions. There's a good deal of speculation that you'll be looking for a political position when you leave York and that outright criticism of the government, like students have done, might hurt these plans.

Macdonald: That's very amusing because I'm not sure you would find many university presidents, although I maybe wrong, in this province who have been more explicit about the criticisms of university funding than I have been. Secondly, I have often thought about many things that it might be fun to do but politics is not among them. It's the last thing I would ever think of doing.... Everyone here knows when I finish my contract I'll go back into my academic work.

...I find it amusing if anyone thinks that I haven't been pretty rough in my comments about governments or many other things in this country.... As I have perceived the situation I thought I was pretty damned outspoken on many things that are important.

EXCALIBUR: Let's say that the Tories win the next federal election and they offer you a high level job like the one you had with the provincial government. Would you go?

Macdonald: In the first place, I'm on a contract here which I always thought was a pretty important matter under the law to fulfill. Secondly, I don't think that is likely to happen. Just because one happened to be a public servant at one time in a provincial government, I don't see any necessary connection there.

EXCALIBUR: You plan to fulfill your contract to 1984?

Macdonald: That's what I've indicated.