

# Funding needed says York to Canadian studies probe

Not only Canadian Studies programs but also the Canadian-ness of studies in universities was the topic of discussion when Tom Symons brought his commission on Canadian studies to York last Thursday.

Under the auspices of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the commission is currently taking an inventory of Canadian studies programs and assessing future requirements.

When at York, Symons heard sympathetically various pleas for more money. A number of people in the seminar were concerned about library facilities and the development of a better system of archives to preserve preliminary research data.

Dean of arts Jack Saywell mourned the fact that researchers in the areas of urbanization, topography and public policy are too often lured away to higher paying jobs in Ottawa.

And Glendon principal Albert Tucker spoke of the difficulties his college faces attracting students from other provinces, particularly Quebec, given that provincial loans and grants cannot be transferred between provinces.

Prominent in the discussions was the importance of French to an effective Canadian studies program.

Tucker revealed that Glendon has difficulty attracting high quality social scientists from Quebec because they have the impression they are sought by a bilingual college for their language skills and not their professional ability.

Symons, who last year was a commissioner on French language education, noted that "despite all the national interest in bilingualism and an array of programs to encourage it, there has been a steady downward trend in the number of Anglophones involved in French studies and who make use of French in their regular reading."

He cited Ontario enrolment figures which show that the number of students opting for French in grades 9 and 10 have dropped 24 per cent in the last two years.

He said he didn't think the declining enrolment was the result of "backlash", but rather that the students felt they could not measure up to the standards of French-speaking ability implied by the new emphasis on bilingualism.

While Glendon has committed itself to a bilingual approach to Canadian studies, one York professor suggested that "some reasonable compromise" should be found for those who don't have a French language background.

As a means to broaden the experience of Canadian studies majors, Tucker suggested giving credit for work and travel experience in other parts of the country. Saywell jokingly suggested it might be called Hitchhiking 3A.

Although it was admitted the field of Canadian studies has grown rapidly in recent years as a result of student and public pressure, it was generally agreed there are a number of gaps to be filled.

Saywell pointed out that there is a real need for experts in Canadian foreign policy and suggested the provision of a few bursaries for post-doctoral study in this area so that PhD's with other specialties might prepare themselves for teaching assignments.

Talk in the seminar gradually moved to the subject of foreign professors and the impact they have on universities and the development of a Canadian scholarship.

The question of quotas was raised with arguments for and against. It was pointed out that the idea of a Canadian approach to scholarship was suggested several years ago by historian Harold Innes at the University of Toronto but the good intentions of Americans in key positions was not enough and American theory is still rampant in Canadian universities.

A student from Glendon College worried that a general rule about

foreign professors might eliminate some exceptional people who have demonstrated their commitment to the study of Canadian problems.

Realizing that a simple citizenship rule might not improve Canadian studies and that even many native born Canadians may know little about the country, one woman emphasized the important role a continuing education program might play.

Symons reported to the group that his travels across Canada have shown him there is no consensus at Canadian universities about the importance of Canadian awareness.

Considering this and the problem of shrinking enrolments, Tucker said he was concerned many of the young academics who have specialized in Canadian studies will drift out of the field of education if no jobs are opened to them.

## York Briefs

### Student senator position open

York's student federation is looking for a student senator. York's senate is primarily a faculty body. It makes policy decisions relating to academic and non-academic life in the York community. There are 15 students on senate. Students interested in the position should contact CYSF at 667-2515, Ross N111.

### Careers day symposium monday

A Careers Day symposium for science students will be held on Monday, April 2, 2 - 4 p.m. in Curtis Lecture Hall I. It will include short talks by representatives of Government and industry on job prospectives in science.

### Fine Arts has summer courses

The Faculty of Fine Arts will offer summer courses in dance, film, theatre, music and visual arts. The courses run from July 3 to August 10. Applications are available at the YES Center in Steacie.

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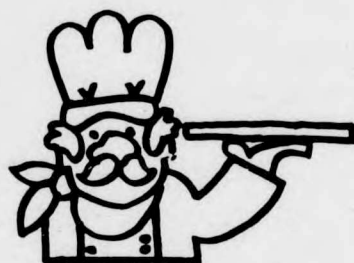
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