

Talks on search make-up stress open lists, parity

Those who learn, those who teach, and those employed at York should be the principle of membership in any search for a new president said dean of arts elect Sydney Eisen in senate Thursday.

Just four days after the resignation of David Slater, a full-house applauded the maiden presidential speech of John Yolton and discussed procedures to get a permanent president.

The Canadian average for selecting a new president is six months commented principal Albert Tucker from Glendon College. Robert MacIntosh chairman of the board of governors said last week he wants a new president by next September.

So far, no candidates have stepped forward.

The executive committee will negotiate with the board over the terms. But in a handbill, the executive said any search body would be "responsible to the university community as a whole" and that all candidates' names will be published and comments welcomed.

A committee with three professors from senate, two members from the board of governors, and two students was proposed by the executive committee Thursday.

In trying to bargain for a different make-up, senators asked for the old 10-member committee used in 1969 when York's second president was selected. It had three board members, three students, and four professors. Other requests were made for a committee with student-faculty-board parity; a woman; and a staff member.

Yolton considers himself "the best man" for the job

Beware the noble lie, there's a philosopher king on the ninth floor.

Like Plato in *The Republic*, York's acting president John Yolton thinks a new spirit of goodwill and some "wise and rational people" will bring a solution to the university's predicament.

He told *Excalibur* Monday there's nothing basically wrong with the structures at York and that the difficult decisions connected with distributing scarce resources will be a matter of "rational decisions and agreements."

Yolton said he feels he was chosen partially for his administrative experience but also because he has "some recognized ability at not getting people's backs up."

He is chairman of the philosophy department; was once dean of graduate studies; and has served on a few province wide university committees. He came to York in 1963, in its early days at Glendon college.

"I feel the president should not be the guy that makes the ultimate decisions," he said. I think I would want to look on the job as I looked at being the chairman of the philosophy department. There is some administrative work to be done... but the chairman is basically the intellectual leader, a person respected by the group, who is able to lead them to make rational decisions," he said.

"The president sets the leadership and guides the community to a

decision. He must put the resources of his office to use."

Yolton said that "York has grown up tending to make group decisions, and even though the university is large now, the senate is an impressive body with a high level of debate."

He likes the idea of academics being involved in decision making but worries that too heavy an involvement in committee work will conflict with the university's primary priority — teaching and learning.

He did not agree that student dissatisfaction with the university might be averted if they had more control over the decisions which affect them.

He would like students to be more concerned about their disciplines and the life of the mind.

"We've never paused for long in confronting academic problems, firing them off to our committees and getting information for making a proper decision," He said, referring to the university adaptability.

Yolton was attracted to York by its new approach to arts education and feels that the excitement of innovation extends to other faculties.

He said he is not sensitive to the criticism that he's the second American selected to act as interim president. Nationality should not be an over-ruling consideration, he says, "when you're looking for the best man."

THE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE

Having suffered discontent
Dave's no longer President
He decided (and quite right)
He would rather switch than fight.

Board of Senate was rather sweet,
"If you want to quit, then quit".
We have candidate who'd fit
comfortably in your seat.

Down with Slater's discontent!
Let's have Storr for President!

But they had surprise in Storr,
President he is no more.
He decided rather quick
that the whole thing made him sick.

Now we have another one,
oh this game is so much fun!
If you care to have a go,
take a number, they'll let you know.

Seems that Yolton's here to stay.
O.K. Yolton, lead the way!
We can only hope & pray
t'will be longer than one day.

Let us stop this crazy trend,
we want a woman President!

by Teresa Furst



Guerilla theatre compliments of Brock students in Central Square last week.

6,000 York students withhold fees

About 6,000 York students are withholding their second-term fees as the Ontario federation of students fee strike continues.

According to figures released by the York Student Federation, 45 percent of Laurentian university students and 50 percent at Lakehead university along with 6,000 at University of Toronto and 3,000 at Carleton haven't yet paid their second instalment. The OFS will decide at a general meeting next

weekend whether or not to continue the strike. A proposal to establish a task force to study the provincial student awards program will also be considered.

At the University of Windsor, student council vice-president John Bennett has been expelled and charged with obstruction after the doors of the fees office were chained shut during an attempted occupation.

Freshmen are intellectually flabby

By MICHAEL BARRIS

High schools produce intellectual softness among university students and undermine the intellectual life of society, says a York tutor.

William F. Kennedy, 42, who teaches four seminars in Humanities 172 B and D, Modern Man in Search of Understanding, told *Excalibur* that high school graduates emerge from an unhealthy system in which development of inquiry is criminally overlooked. The resulting "intellectual flabbiness", he said, is often manifested in false intellectualism in the universities and ultimately in the formation of a society that downgrades understanding.

He indicted university schooling as being partly responsible for intellectual flabbiness.

Kennedy said his freshmen often seemed unable to tangle with questions "on a purely intellectual level". They were having difficulty in abandoning an obsession with attractively packaged essays of footnoted research, he said, and early exhibited "no tenacious pursuit of answers to clearly formulated questions".

He ascribed such intellectual softness to a non-intellectual element absorbed by the students in high school.

"High schools preach tidiness," said Kennedy, a former history, Latin and algebra teacher at Loyola High School, Montreal. "The total organization says order and

predictability. It's in the halls, the stairs, the lines of traffic, the grades, the total organization says those values," he said.

"And inquiry is not tidy. It is explosive, unpredictable — you never know quite what to expect." "There might be an organic growth (of the mind) going on in high schools but it is subordinated to tidiness, order and efficiency — which are business virtues," he said. "Preached openly in the high schools, reliability, record-keeping and order are largely inimical to creative development, and curiosity."

Moreover, he said that public education implants non-intellectualism in people who ultimately shape a weak-minded society.

"The media, advertisers and governments encourage people to opt for Brand X," said Kennedy. "They say take this party, support this cause — without any attempt to present an analysis of what it is the people are buying. All that is important is that they go into action."

"I say that situation exists in an intellectually flabby nation — where intellectual muscle tone can be hurtled into a mindless decision."

"Therefore a nation of intellectual patsies exists, where the intellectual muscle tone has not been developed in schools," he said.

"In fact, it is a kind of miracle that after all that bludgeoning, people still come out of high school excited about the life of the mind," he said.

"Perhaps some people just can't be bludgeoned; many students still come through and blossom." He cited the experience of a teacher-acquaintance who earned a degree in university and then, as a graduate student, "suddenly discovered she could do her own research and didn't have to ape the inquirers of the past."

He said that universities such as York extend the non-intellectualism encompassing high schools. But that notion, he emphasized, was formulated from his observations as a Humanities teacher. He suspected that the University's greatest neglect of intellectual development was occurring in departments with which he was most unfamiliar.

As well, he said York was smattered with fraudulent, flabby-minded teachers who replicated the inevitable bogus officials of "government and clergy", but added that teachers at York were, on the whole, "well-honed, serious inquirers".

He believed that the presence of consumer reports in society and "Ralph Nader's raiders" were "a healthy manifestation of a reaction to this cultural obscurantism."

Kennedy, who enjoys teaching, is a sessional instructor. That means he is appointed by York to teach for a single year, but the appointment is not renewable. He is among the contractually limited faculty whose future at York depends on the budget.

City's death linked to education

By KEN MYRON

Toronto's city core may die in ten years and higher education may be one of the contributing factors according to a visiting American professor.

Dr. Richard Farmer of Indiana who is teaching for a half year in the faculty of environmental studies at York said Monday in a speech that "unless mistakes made in American cities are avoided Toronto's core will die." He added that he sees "no evidence of Toronto trying to avoid those mistakes. The city is heading for big trouble."

He said there are 5 enemies to the well-being of the city core which cause movement to the suburbs.

Farmer listed the automobile, electricity, television, telephone, and the access to higher education, as factors contributing to the death of city cores.

He explained the common thread of these enemies; "they all disperse people allowing them to live anywhere, like in the suburbs."

"Television allows for home entertainment and negates the necessity for a downtown entertainment area. Electricity, the telephone, and the car allow for

factories to move to the suburbs."

He explained that before the telephone and automobile it was necessary for businesses to locate in a core area for access to supplies and transportation. Now that isn't necessary.

Farmer explained that universities also contribute to core decline with the graduates they produce. He said big businesses locate in the suburbs and attract the graduate who wants the big income. Then the graduate settles in the suburb because he can afford the more affluent life style.

As the core declines it will be left to what Farmer called "petty shops" or small businesses catering to those who remain downtown. He said the number of shopping malls that have sprung up in Toronto in the last three years indicate that this is occurring already.

Yet Farmer said the core area will never disappear completely as a percentage of people will always work and live there. He said the parliament buildings will always demand workers and lawyers are likely to locate nearby. He also said poor people will inhabit the core as it declines and rents drop.