

# MacLean's plays dirty pool

by Alan Gayda

In the November edition of Maclean's magazine was an article by a U of T philosophy professor C. Wellington Webb, examining the relative merits of universities across Canada.

We have all read the article, we all know where York was placed among the top 20 schools....last.

After two weeks of frothing at the mouth over such an (injustice), it may well be worth taking a careful look at the article, and its relative merits.

Prof. Webb unjustly ranks York a one-star university or "glorified college", using criteria that cut the new universities out of the picture. His action has provoked dissenting comments from York faculty members.

Dr. James Gilles, Vice-President of York University and Dean of Administrative Studies says that since the war no one has ranked universities per se--instead, experts rank departments and faculties.

Still, Prof. Webb, acknowledging the difficulty in ranking multi-departmental institutions with many different facets, proceeds to rank the top 20 in Canada on the basis of library holdings, graduate strength, science facilities, wealth, and prestige staff.

According to York Registrar Gordon Howarth, these five criteria legislate against the new universities, since "most of them are either quantitative measurements, or measurements based on the reputation of the university."

## LIBRARY HOLDINGS

'By far the most important measure of academic excellence of Canadian universities relative to one another is their library holdings' says Dr. Webb.

President Murray Ross suggests, however, that one must consider the rate of acquisition of books as well as current library holdings.

Though present holdings are only 240,000 volumes, York is presently acquiring over 6,000 volumes per month--exceeding the recommended rate.

## GRADUATE OFFERINGS

The strength of the graduate school, another measure of the academic excellence of a university, is determined (according to Prof. Webb) by the number of graduate students expressed as

a percentage of total enrolment. Quantitative measurement is not enough.

Says President Ross, 'Graduate strength should be judged also by the quality of the scholars produced and by the interest shown by outside agencies in granting research funds.'

York was third in Canada in Woodrow Wilson Fellowships for 1967-68 (next to U of T and UBC) but was first in proportion of graduate population. Assistantship money of about \$2500 per student at York naturally falls short of that of U of T.

However, York is now within striking range of the figure of \$3000 per student, which Acting Dean of Graduate Studies Dr. J.W. Yolton considers will put York on 'a competitive level with larger universities.'

Prof. Webb quotes the Spinks Report regarding the tendency of Ontario universities 'to copy U of T habits and set up little research fields which can never prosper alongside the giant.' Not so at York, replies Dr. Yolton, and points to York's unique CRESS (Centre for Research in Experimental Space Studies) program as a good example of this.

In undergraduate work, U of T is following York's leadership. Several of the recommendations of the Macpherson Commission appointed to review the curriculum of U of T are already in force at York. A general first year program, flexibility in the honors program, the tutorial system and the equal weight of term work and final examination in the evaluation of the final mark.

## PUB PROBLEM

Prof. Webb refers to faculty strife at York--and mentions the six year old Seeley affair (in which Sociology head John Seeley broke with the administration over keeping York a small

liberal arts college rather than allowing it to blossom into a multi-faculty multiversity.)

However this picture of faculty strife is far from true today. Faculty members emphasize they have never seen a more loyal faculty.

'They have nowhere to drink within walking range' laments Prof Webb. The pubs are closer than you think! A very good one which Mr. Wilf Sanders of Information and Development recommends is located at the Campus Restaurant and Steak House, Keele and Finch.

## INNOVATION

Considering that the new universities are the real progressives in education today, why must one judge the 'best' in terms of quantity and tradition?



Should we not make a fairer estimate of the innovations of new universities such as York?

Should we consider quantity or quality?

These are questions which Dr. Webb doesn't consider. He should.

## Student's Say

What do you think of U of T prof C. Wellington Webb's article in the November Maclean's which placed York last of 20 universities ranked, and called us, among other things, "suburban and sober"?



He's ignored Glendon, where they drink at the Jolly Miller. Sober? Never!!  
Baron McCormick (F IV)

York is in fact suburban and sober. However, the innuendo suggests that York is at a cultural disadvantage because it is not urban and 'swinging'.

John R. Wilson (Special Student)



I question his standard of criticism. His report is outdated and seems based on rumors. Can one judge ALL universities by the same criteria?

Suzi Krongold (F II)

Obviously the author had an easy access to a pub and was smashed at the time of writing.

Bill Zener (W II) a former U of T student with no fond memories.



What article?  
Arnim Pitt (Excal II)

He forgets, the personality factor in choosing a university, unless of course one chooses a university by its barroom facilities.

Marilynne Glick (V I)



## and more letters

### U of T CAPER

Dear Sir:

It seems that I have been labouring under a profound delusion, namely that York students are mature, responsible and serious members of an intellectual community. A visit to the U of T campus last Saturday morning proved to me that not all students can be classified in these terms.

During Friday night a group of York students, undoubtedly after much thought, conceived the brilliant idea of painting "York declares war" and "Fuck the B. F.C." (Brute Force Committee) on a large number of walls, windows and doors of U of T buildings. It is disturbing to think that there are at this university a number of childish and irresponsible individuals masquerading as students. In a world as fraught with serious problems as ours there should be no room in universities for people who devote time and energy to such foolish vandalism. If I may echo Professor Russell's words from his letter last week, "Why don't you grow up?"

Kenneth Golby  
Department of Foreign Literature

### YELLOW JOURNALISM

Dear Sir:

I feel that in my position as co-president of the York Debating Society I cannot allow your article of November 3, "Debating President Forced out by Rapoport Faction" to go unanswered. It is incomplete, biased and in my opinion "yellow journalism" of the worst sort.

The article cites one or two relatively unimportant reasons for Mr. Lubek losing the non-confidence vote. Taken in the light of these reasons it might indeed appear that Mr. Lubek was ousted by some nebulous "Rapoport faction" as I mentioned before, however, these were not the real reasons the non-confidence vote was instituted. Apparently Excalibur made no concerted attempt to discover the facts of the matter. But why of course should you? Sensationalism makes better press.

I did explain to your reporter the actual reason behind the vote. As I did not notice them in his article I feel I should state them now to correct the slanted impression which was resultantly given.

When Mr. Lubek was elected President it was understood that he would share his decision-making authority with the other mem-

bers of the executive. Consequently a five member executive was elected. As a past member of that executive and after talking to other members of it I can truthfully say that Mr. Lubek did not abide by this understanding.

The executive as a whole was not consulted by Mr. Lubek, the powers of decision making were not shared, in fact, many members of the executive didn't even know that decisions were being made. It was not until I gained my present position that I learned we had been invited to many different debating tournaments. All of which Mr. Lubek had decided we couldn't attend. The problem was lack of funds but did Mr. Lubek ask if members would be willing to debate at their own expense at nearby tournaments. No. Also, in at least one major debate this year Mr. Lubek peremptuously (sic) chose those who would debate. He was one of his choices. Improper use

of executive power and failure to share decision-making power then would be the first major reason for dissatisfaction with him.

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The Baha'is of Your Community invite you to celebrate with them the birth-day of the Founder of the Faith.

This evening will feature a CBS Colour Film entitled

"His Name Shall Be One"

Time: 8:00 PM  
Saturday Nov. 11

Place: Richmond Hill  
Public Library  
Wright Street  
Richmond Hill