

Masters on academic identity of the colleges

By Greg Saville

When Murray Ross, York's first president, described the college system, and college tutorials as part of the general education program designed to provide a clear distinction between York and its downtown rival, he probably had no idea how unique each college would become.

Excalibur talked with the masters of York's undergraduate colleges about what they thought the academic uniqueness was in their college.

CALUMET

There's a small, but enterprising, electronics business on 720 Queen Street called Rumar in which former York students work. One might wonder what this has to do with the academic uniqueness of Calumet College, but a glance at Calumet's Praxis programme reveals the importance of Rumar.

Thanks to Praxis, the Rumar business has grown — as Calumet's master Eric Winter explains: "Praxis is a programme for upper year students who are trying to establish a relationship with that sector of the community which is engaged in small businesses."

"Basically," he continues, "at Calumet we're interested in attracting people with a congenial form of self-reliance."

Praxis, now in its second year, has three sections which seem to aim at the incorporation of what Winter describes as "the regular business of the University to the community at large."

The program includes consultations with experts from the small business assistance programme, (Administrative Studies) and may soon establish a business incubation centre that would offer professional business services, (secretaries, business offices,...) to students starting their own small business.

Calumet also has recently been funded by the Calumet General Meeting, the student government at the college, to purchase a computer that may, according to Winter, "create the latest in pinball rooms with serious academic uses." One Calumet student calls it computer games at pinball prices.

Future Calumet students may be able to actually take tutorials in philosophical constructs dealing with the ethics of com-

puter use in today's society or may design and justify their essays with the use of the computer. Revenue could be generated for the college by renting out computer time or running a computer arcade with various games.

"While the other colleges around York are taking pieces of the university curriculum and applying it to themselves," says Winter, "we are attempting to create a new curriculum geared to the independent minded person."

WINTERS

Many people believe Calumet General Meetings allocation of funds to computers reflects a change in attitudes towards the importance of academic functions of the colleges. Winter's College provides another example of this trend.

Winters master Des Maxwell sees "a growing interest within various college councils to fund academic functions, such as seminars and conferences at colleges around York." He cites the Canada in the



Calumet's Eric Winter

40's conference and the Science conference, which were mainly funded through the college's student council (along with Vanier's council which co-sponsored the Science Conference) and he says they are "coherent with the academic interest of Winter's college."

Winters College has also provided many of the facilities, such as reading rooms, for students studying humanities such as Canadian Studies and Literary Studies. These courses are located in the college.

"We're trying to get new university



Winters' Des Maxwell

legislation to allow courses here along the lines of humanities, such as literature... perhaps including second and third years seminars." He named four fellows in the departments of music, philosophy and the sciences from Winters who will possibly teach such seminars. So this dream may become a reality next year.

"We have been cultivating an interest in the humanities as well as in the sciences since many biology students are to be found here." He cites the biology club at Winters as part of his college's academic direction.

"The biology club is not purely social and not purely academic." He says Winter's provides a room for the club and also helps arrange for biology speakers to attend conferences.

Professor Maxwell will not be master at Winters next year in attitudes about the academics of colleges.

"I see a growing interest in student councils to fund seminars and conferences as well as the usual social services such as disco's and concerts." This, he says, is a change which he's happy to have seen begin.

FOUNDERS

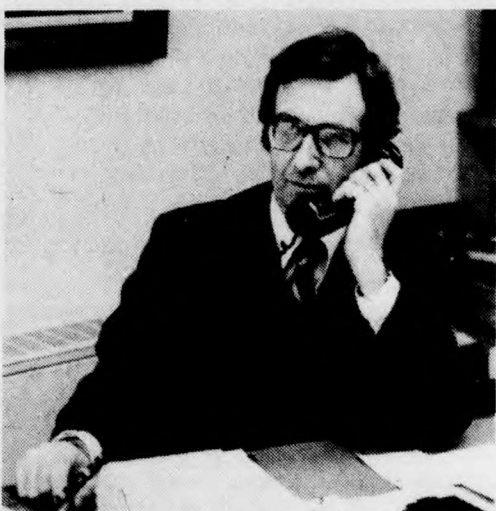
When Ted Rathe, Founder's College master talks of the academic direction of his college he singles out the East Asian Studies program and the Latin-Caribbean Studies program, both which are housed in Founders. The college has, provided facilities, such as a special reading library for these

courses and he says, "we're trying to reflect the courses found here as well as the interests of the fellows."

He outlines the effects the financial crunch on colleges around York, (a reduction from 20 tutorials to 18 next year at Founders) but states that it's still possible to institute new programs with new ideas.

"Founders has for a long time traditionally helped foreign students integrate into campus life," he says. In the past students' have chosen colleges for reasons of proximity, (such as Phys Ed students choosing Stong due to its proximity to the Tait gym) accommodation, (such as the co-operative apartment venture at Bethune) or college tutorials offered at each college. But what has been lacking, he says, is a distinct academic identity for the various colleges at York.

For professor Rathe a part of the solution is what he calls the "team approach". This includes tutorials and programs run by groups of fellows from Founders. It might



Founder's Ted Rathe

include a tutorial in lecture format dealing with physical fitness, (since there are a number of fellows involved with phys ed at Founders) or a tutorial taught strictly in French which would "reflect the reality of the french speaking world."

So far it's all in the planning stage. Professor Rathe believes colleges must not act to the detriment of the established academic structure at York.

See *Academic Identity of York's Colleges, Part II*, in next week's issue.

C.Y.S.F. BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTION

Advanced Poll 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Central Square
Wednesday March 14, 1979 9 a.m.-5 p.m.* Glendon York Hall
Rm 400B

Main Polls 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Central Square
Thursday March 15, 1979 9 a.m.-5 p.m.* Glendon York Hall
Rm. 400 B

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Stong (by
porter's Office)

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Founders/Vanier
(by ramp to dining hall)

10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Osgoode
Mixing Area

Atkinson Polls 5 p.m.-7 p.m.* Central Square
March 12,13,14,15, 1979 Glendon York Hall Rm 120

*** BOARD OF GOVERNORS POLL ONLY**

Income tax tips from on-campus service

By B.J.R. Silberman

It is at about this time of the year that people from all walks of life are stricken with the same bug. Income tax.

There are ways of alleviating the symptoms of this virus; you can cheat on your return, leave the country or better still commit suicide. One solution may be to turn to the York Campus Tax Service.

The fees are reasonable. On the average students paid \$15 a return last year and staff and faculty rates hovered around the \$35 mark.

Manager of the service, Viviane Spiegelman cited numerous common errors people are apt to make on their returns. For example, she pointed out student loans aren't considered income and don't have to be declared.

Something few students realize is tuition fees may be claimed on a calendar (January 1 - December 31) or academic (September - May) year. Said Spiegelman "depending on the situation of the student it may be more advantageous to claim on a calendar year."



The medical deduction enjoys the same sort of option. Expenses can be declared on a calendar year or in any twelve month period ending in the tax year. Heavy dental expenses can also be claimed.

Most of these income tax "tips" are not listed in the accompanying income tax booklet, said Spiegelman. For example few people are aware that if a student does not need to use his entire education deduction in order to bring his income tax down to "zero" he can transfer the remaining portion to an immediate member of the family including an in-law.

Spiegelman said the purpose of the York Campus Tax Service "is to save the client as much tax money as legally possible."

It is the policy of her tax business to conduct a comprehensive interview with the client before filling out his return. She conducts these screenings because eligibility for various types of more unusual deductions are unlikely to show up unless an interview is held.

She said a client who has moved within the last year may be able to deduct his moving and travelling expenses. Similarly a landed immigrant sending money out of the country home to relatives may also be able to list this as a deductible expense.

Spiegelman heads her year old company working in cooperation with a CA and a RIA. She hasn't got an office at York this year but may be contacted at 663-2438 to arrange a meeting place on campus.