

...strikes for linguistic equality

controversy simmers at Glendon

continued from page 8

English students in the bilingual stream can avoid taking any. In 1969, the Globe and Mail said that "except for language students as such, it seems that in Ontario it is largely the French speaking student who is motivated to become bilingual. In most cases, the English speaking student need not become so."

REQUIRED COURSES

At Glendon, one can in fact take only the required French language courses and never have to take a course taught in French. This fact, combined with the disillusionment experienced by many first year students coming to Glendon, has given cause for concern over the future of bilingualism. This concern is felt by students and by McQueen who is beginning his first year as the chief administrator of the college.

BILINGUAL ASPIRATIONS

McQueen has long been a supporter of Glendon's bilingual aspirations and now as principal he is being given the opportunity to guide students and faculty in their search for the state of linguistic equality envisioned by Escott Reid 10 years ago.

After engaging in often angry debates with the leaders of the student-backed BBAC, McQueen is glad of the chance to outline some of the policies he hopes will lead to solving Glendon's bilingual problem.

RECRUITMENT METHODS

The first and most obvious effort

will be toward improving recruitment methods among Quebec students who have provided a great deal of the impetus of the recent flourishing of the French cultural programme and have contributed extensively to the discussion of the college's future.

The second effort will be toward increased recruitment of Franco-Ontarians who may hold the key to solving the problems of the declining interest of English grade 13 students in bilingualism. To this end, Glendon College has been deeply involved in the establishment of French language courses and a programme of theatre and cultural activities at Penatanguishine in Northern Ontario.

"REPRISE DE CONSCIENCE"

The college, including many of its students, responded to this programme because of a phenomenon described as a "réprise de conscience" which is currently under way among Franco-Ontarians. This awakening could lend new importance to the existence of Glendon and also create a more favourable image with the provincial government which has not been overly receptive to the college's appeals for assistance in the past.

At present, Glendon receives a special \$140,000 grant from the government. This forms a small, but important part of the funds needed just to maintain, let alone expand, the bi and bi programme at Glendon.

Another project McQueen is proposing involves the creation of a "multi-user educational and cultural facility" in Penatanguishine. It is hoped the facility could be used by local residents to promote the resurgence of cultural interests as well as by colleges such as Glendon to host immersion courses in language programmes. The federal and provincial governments could also use the facility for training civil servants in a second language.

BILINGUAL STUDENT

McQueen pointed out that one of the main difficulties experienced by the English bilingual student is in making the connection between what they learned in high school French and the reality of the language. Too many students are discouraged by the difficulty of making this connection and without any encouragement will often stop trying. Not all students can afford to spend that all important year in a French environment — an experience which could be duplicated at the facility proposed by McQueen.

BROADENED APPEAL

Due to the decline of French in high schools, several new introductory courses have been created at Glendon, such as French 040 which is geared to students who have not had adequate grounding in the language. These, combined with several new departments, have served to broaden the appeal of Glendon to graduating Ontario high school students, who

might not otherwise continue bilingual studies because of limited course offerings.

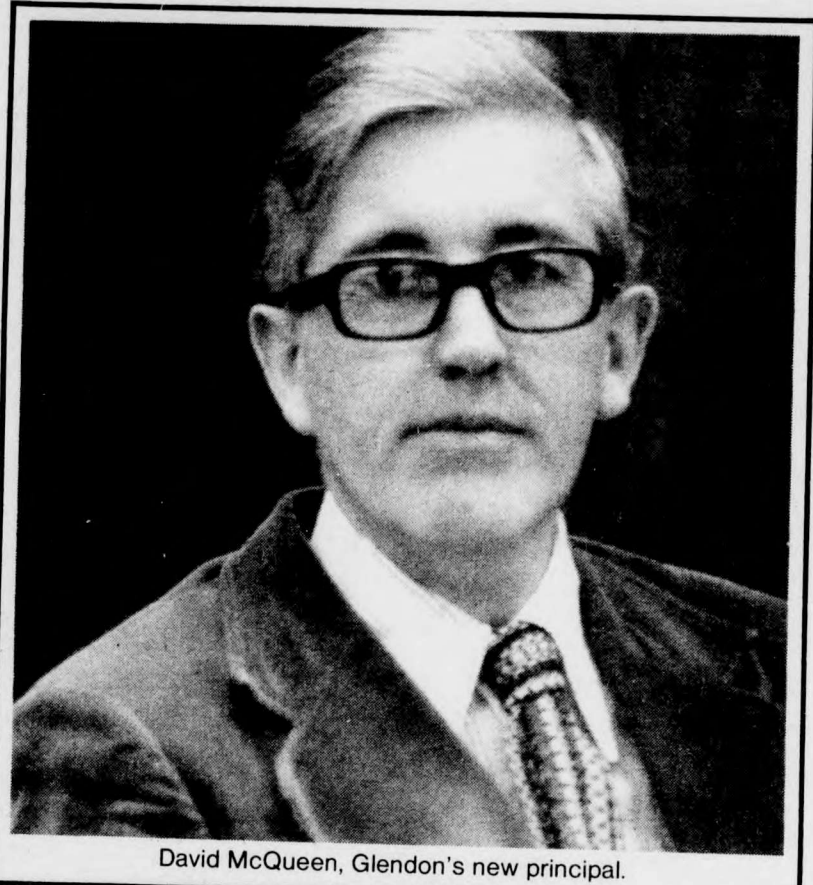
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

But there are some problems which McQueen offers as reasons for not proceeding as quickly as most would like. These problems are, of course, financial. Although he is as anxious as the students to see bilingualism and biculturalism become a definite reality at Glen-

don, McQueen must wait to see what the future holds in the way of funding.

The new proposals for a move away from enrolment-sensitive systems would enable Glendon to phase out the unilingual stream and be more selective in its admission policies.

And McQueen feels the future of bilingualism at Glendon is getting brighter all the time.



David McQueen, Glendon's new principal.

Gary Cook photo

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

wishes to announce that we are now a

CERTIFIED UNION

under the Labour Relations Act of Ontario.

President H. Ian Macdonald has been invited to meet with the membership of the GAA on December, Tuesday 9th at 4:00 p.m. in CLH 'D' Discussion will include his reply to our demand for a \$360. cost of living increase. The first general membership meeting of the GAA will follow Mr. Macdonald's presentation.

AGENDA

1. Macdonald Speech
2. Questions for Macdonald
3. Report from GAA Executive

Make sure Macdonald gets the message!

Attend this meeting!

GAA meets with Macdonald

at: Tues., Dec. 9, 4:00

in: CLH 'D'

Be There! Be There! Be There!