

News Digest

TWO FORMER YORK PROFS AWARDED ORDER OF CANADA

Former Osgoode dean Gerald Le Dain and Glendon professor emeritus in sociology Jean Robertson Burnet have been awarded the Order of Canada.

Le Dain is a recently retired justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and an expert on constitutional matters. He was dean of Osgoode from 1967 to 1972.

Burnet is one of Canada's top sociologists whose work helped formulate Canada's multicultural policy. She helped found York's sociology department and was a teacher for 40 years. She currently is chief executive officer of The Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

Courtesy of the *York Gazette*

GLENDON ESTABLISHES EXCHANGE WITH BELGIAN SCHOOL

Glendon, York and l'Universite Libre de Bruxelles recently established a reciprocal exchange programme.

The programme has three components: a one year academic exchange programme for students, a one month research exchange visit by faculty and graduate students and an annual teaching exchange of faculty and publications. The agreement was officially signed on Jan. 26 by President Harry Arthurs.

The Belgian Ambassador and Consul General were both present at the signing, as were vice-president Ian Macdonald, Glendon professors Alain Baudot and Rosanna Furguele and Glendon principal Roseann Runte.

The agreement comes after many years of collaboration between the two schools, particularly in the area of programmes offered at Glendon by the Group for Research in French Studies (GREF), led by Baudot. The group's activities have been supported in the past by the Belgian ambassador and consul general and both governments.

L'Universite Libre de Bruxelles also has a renowned Canadian Studies Centre.

Prov. grant too low: educators

by John Andrews

An eight per cent increase in university operating grants by the province will leave Ontario universities short of cash and professors and subsequent financial cuts are inevitable, educators say.

Bob Kanduth, public relations officer of the Ontario Council of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), said that if the province put up only \$60 to 80 million to pay for a much needed 1,500 new faculty, then an 11.3 per cent increase in funding grants would almost suffice. However, with education cuts growing especially with the new federal budget, it seems that 11.3 per cent is impossible.

York president Harry Arthurs told York's *Alumni News* that in each of the past 15 years, save one, Ontario governments have reduced universities as a provincial spending priority.

"Today, Ontario — the richest province — ranks at or near the bottom compared to other Canadian provinces on university expenditures per student, per capita of population, per dollar of Gross Provincial Product, per virtually anything else including — especially — per dollar needed . . . Ontario governments don't care."

Kanduth told *Excalibur*, "In real terms the eight per cent increase is actually about 2.4 per cent maximum. The 5.6 per cent would be lost to things like the health levy, pay equity, increases in the Canada Pension Plan,

Unemployment Insurance and French language programmes."

Kanduth believes funding will continue to dwindle and educational equipment will not get replaced or even repaired. With the student/professor ratio growing fast, students' education will suffer while tuition costs will likely rise exorbitantly.

occur everywhere, no department will escape." The base grant for York in the '89-'90 year was \$139 million while the base grant for '90-'91 will be \$146 million.

Levy said that even though this is a sizeable increase, it does not account for rises in inflation, the employers health tax etc. Levy added that the universities will be

"The institutions will be left with no choice but to increase class sizes and slash equipment budgets"

— Arthurs

Edith Garneau, chair of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), said that while tuition increased on average eight per cent in the 1989-90 academic year, it failed to make up the cost of inflation.

"Some universities cannot continue to operate and Queen's University and the University of Waterloo want to become private universities to maintain their standards of excellence. This would be a step backward to the turn of the century when universities were elitist and reserved for the wealthy," she added. "These universities don't care about the students' tuition, they are selfish and only want to be number one."

Sheldon Levy, York's vice-president (institutional affairs), said the actual increase in grants will be about 1.8 per cent for York.

Levy said that " . . . cuts will

exempt from the feared GST.

Bill Farr, York's vice-president (finance and administration) would not comment.

Arthurs told the *OCUFA Forum* newsletter that "the institutions will be left with no choice but to increase class sizes and slash equipment budgets."

Kanduth believes that if the student/professor ratios keep increasing, there could be a possible faculty strike at the next contract renewal due to increased workloads.

Dr. Nelles, chair of the Ontario Council of University Affairs (OCUA), said, "The cumulative gap between funding requirements and the level of support provided by the government has grown by an average of \$28.8 million per year. Since 1986-87 the

gap in funding has risen by \$36 million annually."

He added, "The quality/quantity of trade off will become increasingly visible as the system continues to stretch limited operating resources to meet the escalating demands for university education."

David Colter, co-ordinator (capital and operating grants) of the University Relations Branch of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, said that on the subject of access for lower income groups, there is little relationship between personal economic background and university attendance. He said funding for university loans will rise so that there will be no hardship cases.

Colter added that the wealthy students are actually benefitting from the present low tuition and that students today are far better off financially than students of 20 years ago. He said that every government department is getting financially squeezed and that the taxpayer's money can only go so far.

As for private universities, Colter said that government policy would have to be changed and that would be highly unlikely.

Kanduth believes that in the near future students could face tuition costs of well over \$6,000 per year and receive less education than they are receiving now, if the present government trend continues.

opinion

Smokers do worst in school

by Professor Michael A. Gilbert

Here's a story for you. Lisa is a bright young athlete, a varsity runner, who is eager, ambitious, and good. Her dream is to make the Canadian National Track Team and maybe go to the Commonwealth Games or even the Olympics. Lisa knows she may not make it, but she's sure as hell going to try.

The crucial meet is finally here. If Lisa can place in this meet, even third place, she has a good chance of making the team. She's ready for the race, all warmed up, psyched up, and feeling strong. For her final preparations Lisa leans down and places weights around her ankles and stuffs cotton into her nose. Her coach is aghast. "Lisa," her coach cries, panic in her voice, "what on earth are you doing?"

"Never mind," Lisa says, "just leave me alone."

"But you can't possibly do your best if you add extra weight and hamper your breathing."

"It's my business, coach. Go away."

With no real choice, Lisa's coach did go away. Lisa, of course, came in dead last.

Dumb, eh? Well here's another story for you. Chris is a bright young student. He's ambitious and hardworking, determined to get nothing less than a B and striving for As. Exams are coming soon, essays are all due in the next four weeks, and the work pressure is piling up. He knows he has to spend a lot of time studying and writing.

Chris locks himself in his room surrounded by books, pads, and notes. He's ready to go. Chris reaches over, takes out a cigarette and lights up.

You may not know it, and you may not want to believe it, but Chris is doing the same thing Lisa did — shooting himself in the foot. According to work by Dr. George J. Spilich, cited in the Dec. '87 *Psychology Today*, there is a definite difference in recall and task completion between smokers and non-smokers.

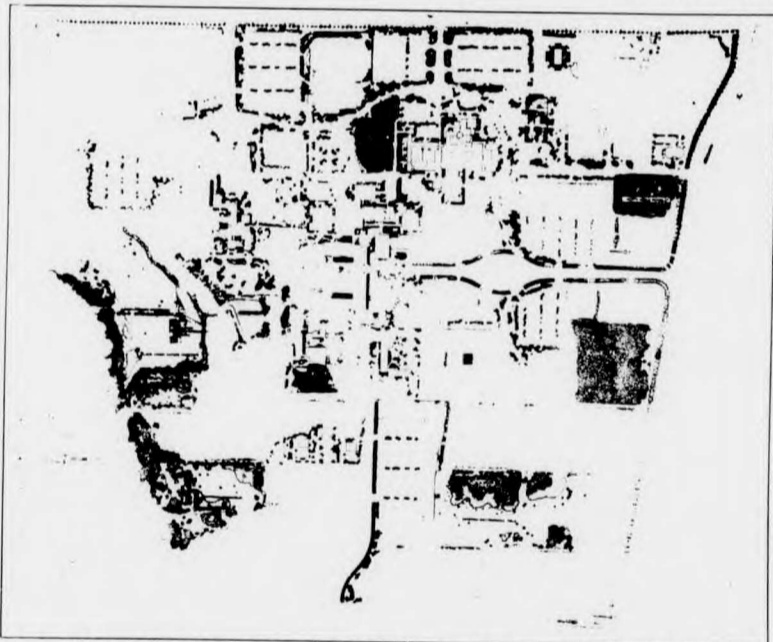
Spilich did some simple tests of complicated tasks: reading and recalling important themes from a 600-word story. Just the sort of thing every student does when studying. What happened was simple: non-smokers did best, smokers who did not smoke for an hour before did second best, and smokers who had just smoked did worst.

Chris, of course, smokes like a chimney just before an exam. It helps to relax him.

Basically, several things happen. First, smokers take in a lot of carbon monoxide (CO). Haemoglobin love CO, much more than good old oxygen. 200 times more in fact. So, simply put, Chris is cutting down the oxygen going to his heart and increasing the CO. His brain and his body need maximum oxygen to take on the difficult and exhausting work of studying and writing. So Chris is doing exactly the opposite of what he needs to in order to succeed. Dumb, eh? Not only that, but I could go on and on with lots of hard to pronounce words and awful effects specifically related to not doing well at studying.

Now I know that smokers are feeling under siege these days. But please, smokers, don't feel harassed. Feel cared for.

Professor Gilbert is a member of the York philosophy department, a novelist and screenwriter.



This map identifies existing landscape features on campus, including meadows, woodlots and recent landscape plantings

Environmental inventory completed

by Christopher Premdas and staff

An environmental inventory of York's main campus will be used as a guideline for minimizing environmental damage in any future development projects at York. The Green Campus Project (GCP) was recently completed by three graduate students in the faculty of environmental studies — Donna Rocca, Marc Daigle and John Munn.

Funded by the York University Development Corporation (YUDC), the project — which began in September 1988 and will be published at the end of this month — will be distributed along with the Master Plan, said Rocca. The Master Plan provides guidelines for York's infrastructure, transportation and future lands-

caping and building development. "We would like to see the inventory integrated into the Master Plan," she added.

"The inventory was done because we want people to know what is here so they can appreciate it and try to preserve it," said Rocca.

York has a strong environmental history, including the farming techniques and crops that existed before York was constructed, said Rocca. Today there is a variety of wildlife on campus, including hawks, nesting birds and even fox.

The CGP also recommends the creation of an educational arboretum to "enhance and utilize the potential of the campus . . . Our proposal for the university is to have an environmental learning centre," said Rocca. "It would

involve programmes for students as well as people in the community and a wildlife corridor and nature trail. The Hoover Homestead down on Black Creek on the other side of Fraser Drive could be converted into a learning centre or we could use one of the existing spaces."

In April, Rocca and her associates will be presenting a report on the arboretum to the administration.

"We feel that these are important considerations of the 1990s and that our institutions should demonstrate some responsibility," said Rocca.

Copies of the inventory, which be about 100 pages long, will be made available through the YUDC and the department of physical plant. It will also be placed in the Scott Library reading room.