

Winter-Summer session begins with new rules to avoid burn-out

Rose Crawford

While most York students have probably started a countdown to the end of the year, the long nights of hard work have just begun for people like Diana Carnagle and Lerrick Starr.

Carnagle and Starr are two of about 600 students who began their school year last Monday, having enrolled in York's Winter-Summer session.

Designed primarily for first year students, this session runs for eighteen weeks and caters to mature students, high school graduates from semester schools, and to those students who, for one reason or another, dropped out in the fall term and wished to re-apply at this time.

For Starr, who decided to return to York to finish his B. Sc. after ten years of employment, the Winter-Summer session was a godsend.

"It would have been murder without it. With this program I can get all my introductory courses out of the way, then in September I can get into my real work," said Starr.

If there is a disadvantage with the Winter-Summer session, it would have to be the limited choice of courses. Sue Salusbury, Acting Director of the Advising Centre, explains that, "The total enrollment is small so we can't see offering ten Humanities or Social Science courses, and because of the small enrollment, most

departments will only offer one course." According to Salusbury however, small enrollment has its advantage.

"Because it's a small session, there's a greater chance for fellow students to see each other more. Winters College, the host college of the Winter-Summer session, is gearing a lot of its activities to Winter-Summer students," said Salusbury.

Since its inception, in 1973, some significant changes have taken place, one of which has been the reduction of the number of weeks in the program.

"It used to run right to August, but we found that the students were so burned out, they

couldn't make it through the Fall-Winter term. They ended up losing a year anyway," explained Salusbury.

In the present system, students are limited to a maximum of four courses, each of which consists of four hours a week. This limit was implemented to reduce the academic pressure.

Starting a school year at a time when everyone else is half way through, could prove to be a disconcerting experience for anybody. Carnagle, a recent graduate of Thistletown Collegiate in Etobicoke, and a former member of Canada's National gymnastics team,

Ridpath made inquiries

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go unremarked, and an appropriate letter will be placed in his/her file by my Office..."

Farr says that a few faculty members inquired about what action would be taken against faculty who cancelled classes, but Farr would only name John Ridpath, a professor of Economics. Two of Ridpath's students, Ian Yehros and Sandra Shaw, who had earlier written Farr, and other members of the administration, approached *Excellbur* last week and asked that the newspaper write an article that

would encourage students to pressure the administration to deal with the problem. The two said they had come on their own initiative.

"I want students to know they can send the names of faculty members who cancelled classes to Vice-President Farr's office," said Yehros.

Farr, however says, "Pending further consideration by the University Policy Committee I would not know what to do with such names. I certainly would not take action on any information that had not been verified by the proper university channels."

The world according to Coutts

Ian Bailey

There is much Canadians could do to gain control of their own economy, provided they were willing to pool enough of their money together, said Jim Coutts during a speech given Monday in the Osgoode Hall Moot Court.

At the beginning of his talk, Coutts, a former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau and presently a Fellow of York's Faculty of Administrative Studies, laid down some ground rules. In particular, he said he would not talk about the present federal government and he kept his promise.

Speaking before a fair-sized audience, Coutts outlined what he sees as areas of concern in Canadian Public Policy. Prominent among these concerns was the lack of awareness Canadians have of their economic history. "Canadians don't know that our country's economic history has always been one of private and public sector enterprise," said Coutts.

He added that Americans were equally unaware of Canada's economic history and that this is reflected in their worries about such recent economic policies as the establishment of the Foreign Investment Review Agency.

Coutts believes both the public and the government are shareholders in Canadian history and with the combination of these two factors there are "no limits to investment vehicles that Canadians could create to tackle large economic projects." He suggested that people are being convinced that all political groups must get closer to the community in order to eliminate the dangerous gap that exists between the governors and the governed.



Jim Coutts, former secretary to the Prime Minister.

Coutts also sees as problematic our inability to reward the individual who takes the chance of starting a new business. The University of Alberta graduate highlighted this issue by citing the case of a Korean immigrant who was financially crushed after he entered the restaurant business. In another part of his speech Coutts remarked that Canadians were generally ignorant of how important service industries are to this country's economy.

Coutts also had much to say

about the media. He blamed the business press for the distorted view Canadians have of their economy. Calling television a powerful political force, he said its propensity for attacking the government was "not a good thing." In response to a question from a member of the audience about the effectiveness of televising Question Period, Coutts said that this parliamentary tradition was not "the most effective form of public debate." However, he conceded, "The harassing of government is a valuable tool."

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Alice Propper, learning about women in love.

Faculty Focus

Behind prison bars

PJ Todd

When York Sociology Professor, Alice Propper, questioned imprisoned women about things that were important in their lives, they gave her their love letters. They talked about their homosexual marriages and their adopted identities of 'stud' (male) and 'femle' (female) within those relationships. They showed her their marriage certificates and some produced 'divorce papers'. Propper was intrigued.

"Whether or not homosexuality should be controlled between consenting adults is a controversial issue. The reality is that decision-makers are interested in both decreasing homosexuality and in ignoring it." Propper hasn't ignored it: she's spent the last ten years researching sexual relationships in women's prisons, and the result is her recently published *Prison Homosexuality: Myth and Reality*.

"Prison administrators and staff often regard homosexuality as a problem and try to prevent it by instituting severe sanctions for and rigid rules about touching or such activities as combing each other's hair." Propper's research indicates that these measures are useless - "they only serve to increase the inmates' feelings of being deprived of normal relationships and tend to make the forbidden activities more attractive." "One of the few times the inmates benefitted from these practices," Propper notes, "was when lockstep marching was abandoned because administrators believed the close body contact promoted homosexuality."

Propper's study challenges many of the widely held assumptions about prison homosexuality. "It is not simply situational", she admonishes. "Evidence shows that inmates continue homosexual experiences when released from prison." And co-ed prisons, according to Propper, do not decrease the likelihood of "homosexual relationships and the development of various forms of quasi-kinships." Her suggestions for administrators include "decreasing the length of prison sentences and establishing more weekend furloughs."

Dr. Propper is already at work on three new projects. "I would like to do research for the Office of the Solicitor-General and the Department of Justice. I want to help bring York to the 'old boy network of funding,'" she said. "It is very difficult to get grants here, and I may be forced to go to the U.S. again."

"I am a Canadian," Dr. Propper said firmly. "I want to work at home."

Players suspended

Mike Guy

Two Yeomen basketball players have been suspended, and the team manager fired after they took a joy ride in the car of a Sudbury waitress.

Players Bruce Atwood and Rob Hager were suspended and manager Mike Sherrard fired on Saturday January 23, immediately after the incident took place. On that day the three men became friendly with a waitress who they had met in a Sudbury pub. After she had finished work, the waitress left her car idling in order to keep it warm while she remained in the pub. Realizing that the car was left running, the threesome decided to "take the car for a drive to play a prank on the waitress," says basketball coach Bob Bain.

The waitress returned to the parking lot, only to find her car

missing. She telephoned the police and got in touch with Bain who she knew from previous Yeomen trips. "After twenty minutes" says Bain "the guys got lost and could not find the pub, so they drove back to the hotel" where, they found the police, the waitress, and Bain, himself waiting for them. According to Bain, "As long as the waitress did not press any charges the police allowed the incident to be dealt with as an internal matter".

Stuart Robbins, Director for the Physical Education Department, explains why the three men were punished. "As players representing the university, they must realize that they have an obligation to behave in a sensible manner. If they had smashed up the car or got involved in a police chase, there would have been serious consequences."