

Charles Rathé is "very enthusiastic" about post

# New master wants to humanize York U.

By DEBBIE PEKILIS

York's chairman of the department of French literature for the past seven years was named the new master of Founders College last week.

Professor Charles Rathé, a former member of Victoria College, was chosen to succeed Hugh Parry as the master of York's founding Keele-Steeles campus college.

In an interview with Excalibur, Rathé set out his plans for the college.

"The university is a very big, dehumanizing place that students find hard to identify with. The students can better identify with a college," he said.

Rathé believes that the colleges can best perform this role through "more interaction between the fellows and students of a college."

## FELLOWSHIP

The college tutorial is the "means by which new students establish close relationships with a fellow of the college," he said.

He called the college tutorial an important part of a first year student's education. "The tutor could be the best academic advisor that a student could have."

He added that the tutors should be responsible for establishing personal contact with individual students and should, in doing so, be able to advise them in their future academic plans.

"This is a better possibility than the academic advising system that we have now."

Rathé also feels that the tutorials should be made more "serious" and more academically demanding.

The tutorials are not a normal part of a professor's workload but are an extra duty, for which professors receive a small stipend.

This method of financing the tutorials should be changed so that they will be "sound academically and respectable pedagogically," he said.

With the present system of financing, the professors, or the fellows of the college who teach

them, do not think it is worthwhile putting a serious effort into them. The "quality control" of the tutorials might be improved if the colleges "bring tutors together to discuss pedagogical experiences and strategies."

## INVOLVEMENT-THURST

Rathé believes that the college tutorial should be the thrust by which the students get involved in college activities. Founders specializes in two interdisciplinary programmes of study, Latin American-Caribbean Studies and East Asian studies.

"Some of the college tutorials and extracurricular activities are related to this," he said. "The (activities) are meant to attract students who are interested in these areas."

Another function of the colleges, Rathé believes, is to provide a "rich intellectual and cultural social life." This will, he said, "require a bit more cooperation between the colleges." The university, he said, should have meeting places where Canadian and international students can meet and hold meaningful dialogues.

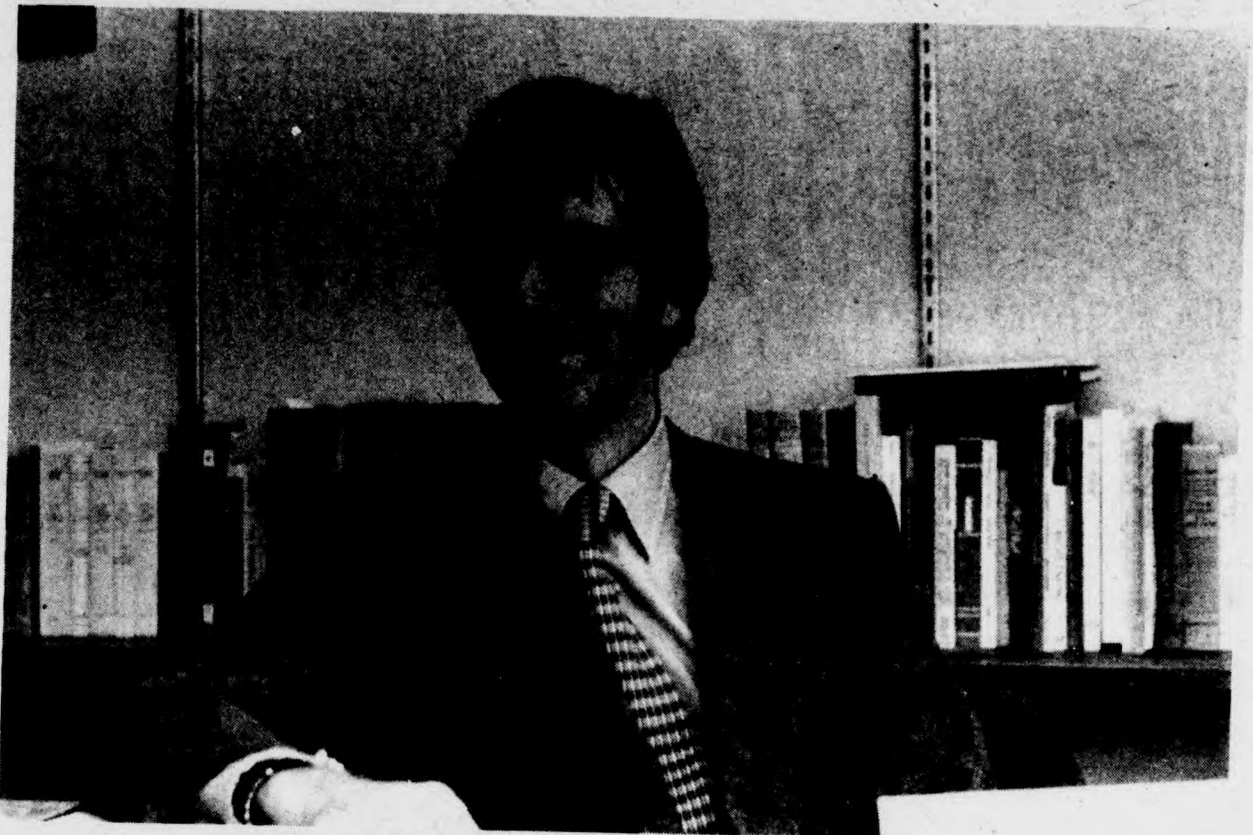
"Racial and cultural barriers come down in a serious atmosphere where people can talk," he said. "The colleges do this in a way that the Ross Building and the Central Square cafeteria were never intended to and can not. The colleges can create an atmosphere for civilized and respectful dialogue between different people and different cultures."

Rathé feels that the colleges have already been performing their function, but for "too few people". The residence students participate in college activities and have a sense of identity with their colleges.

## COMING HOME

He feels that commuter students would also stay on campus on weekday evenings and come on weekends if there were interesting programmes to induce them.

Before the French literature department and Rathé's move to the Ross building, his office had



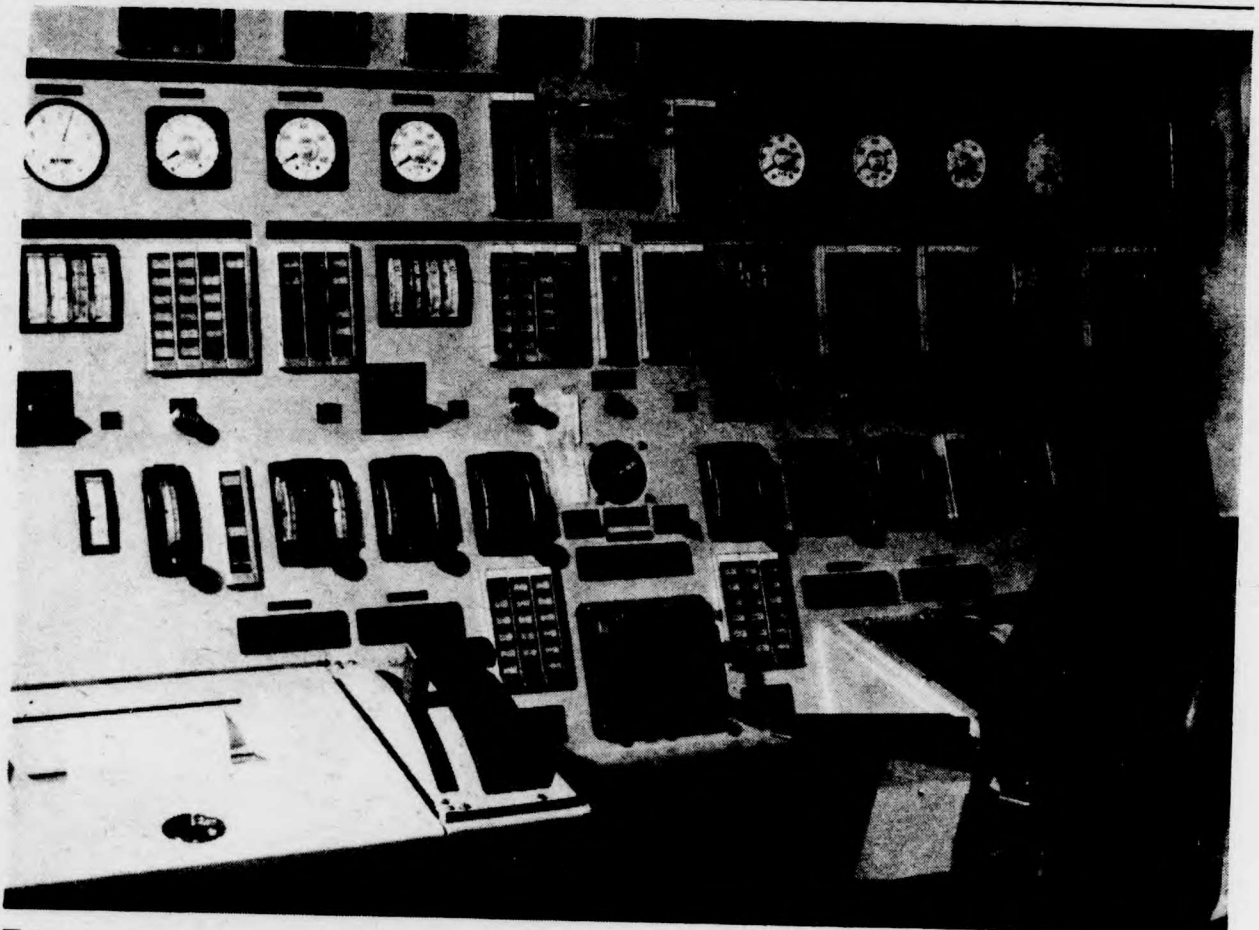
New Founders College master Charles Rathé.

been in Founders. "I feel like I'm going home. I have been a fellow at Founders College for seven years and it is a part of my life," he said.

"I am very enthusiastic and I have a lot to learn," he said. "I am very anxious to see the college reach its potential".

Rathé would like to see a con-

tinuation of Founders's public lecture series and Meet the Fellows series at the dinner of which Doris Anderson (editor of Chatelaine Magazine) was one guest.



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