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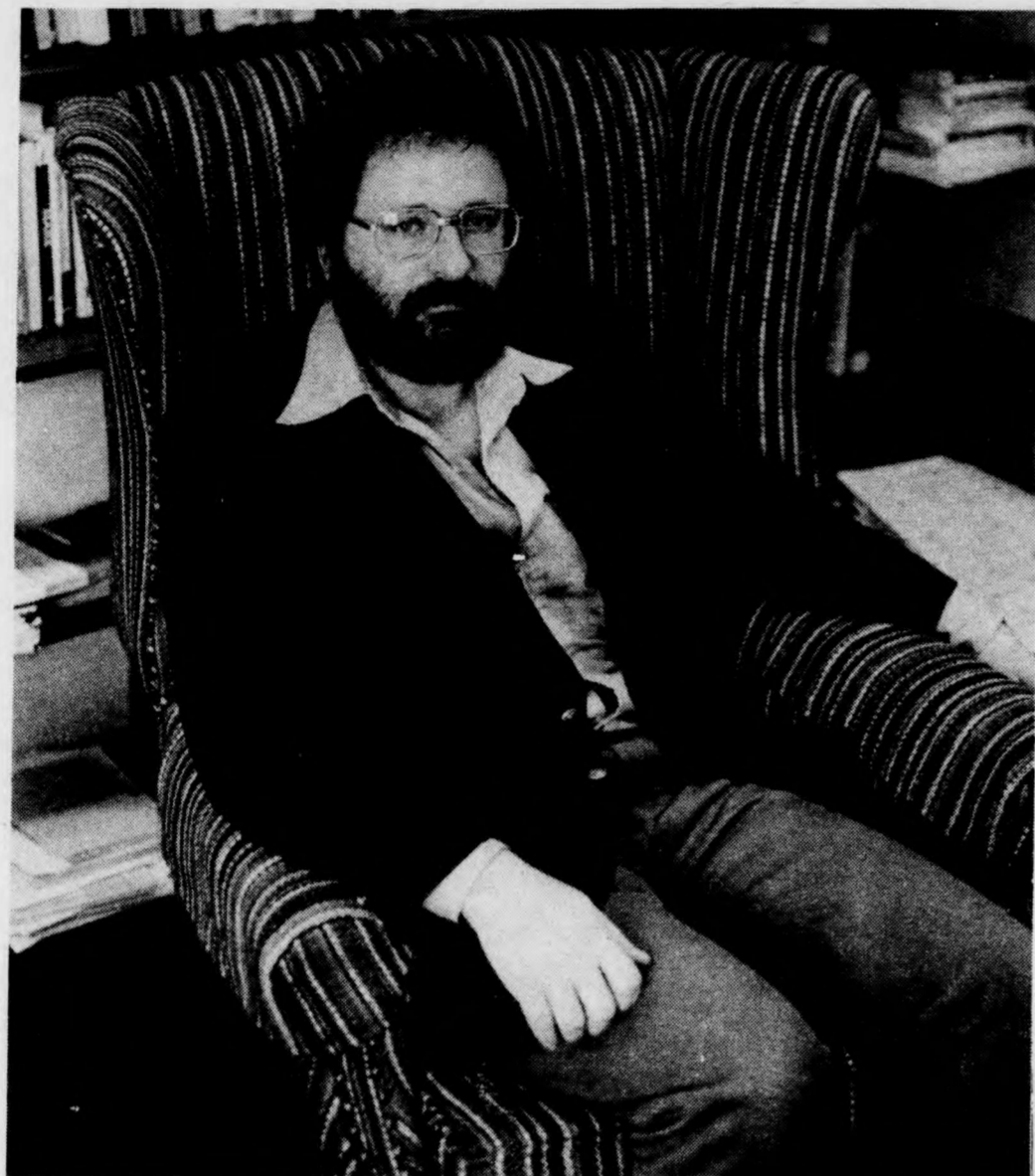
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Masters on academic identity, part II



David Shugarman, master of Bethune

By Laura Brown
Two weeks ago, Excalibur approached the masters of three undergraduate colleges to ask them what was unique about their respective college's programs. Having heard from Eric Winter (Calumet), Des Maxwell (Winters) and Ted Rathe (Founders), this week the masters from the four remaining colleges will talk about the academic uniqueness of their programs.

Bethune
Bethune College is in the process of broadening the thematic nature of its courses to meet the changing needs and interests of the students, reported Bethune master David Shugarman.
For several years, the college's tutorial program consisted primarily of courses dealing with third world studies (especially African Studies). But in recent years there has been some difficulty filling these courses, said Shugarman.

"The students who were otherwise interested in third world studies are now interested in nuts and bolts courses, such as economics, which are of a more marketable value", he continued.
The present program answers to the new interests of the students combined with those of the Bethune fellows, "who see Bethune oriented towards a concern for progressive social change," said Shugarman.

Now the courses in the program are geared towards social change as well as "courses of a comparative nature dealing with political/social/economic questions," he stated.

Bethune's academic identity is also clearly demonstrated through its three extra-curricular academic programs.
A yearly conference has been held at the college since 1974, and "they've all tried to have as their theme a subject that can be related to the spirit of Norman Bethune," said Shugarman.

"This spirit," he explained, "stands for a commitment to social justice and opposition to repression and resolute internationalism." Past conferences have dealt with subjects such as China and the Spanish Civil War.

This year's conference, entitled *Politics of Health*, will draw together politics and medicine, "and will be the kind of conference anybody would be interested in," said Shugarman.

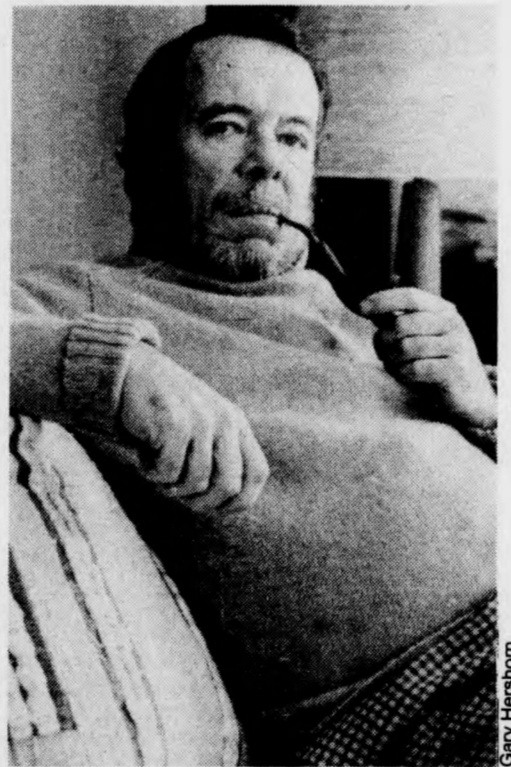
Bethune's periodic *Heroes and Beer* series is an informal panel discussion which "brings together people from various perspectives.... (to discuss) a subject of

some controversy, interest, or something less than formally academic," he said.

The third regular college program is the Bethune Seminars. "In the past they've tended to focus on social and political theory with phenomenological and Marxist approaches.... but this year they deal with more contemporary issues."

According to Shugarman, Bethune also hosts a variety of conferences sponsored by "organizations, study groups and academics who often express an interest to hold meetings and conferences in our college.... I think that's because they can identify with our image and name."

"In addition," he continued, "the African Studies programme has long had an informal affiliation with Bethune, so they often hold their seminars and discussions here."



McLaughlin master, George Doxey

When asked about student participation in these programs, Shugarman replied, "student support and enthusiasm has varied over the years.... but this year the students are showing more interest."

McLaughlin
In his convocation address, McLaughlin master George Doxey described the essence of the college as "the preservation of the concept of a whole man educated in mind,

body and spirit, and functioning in a civilized society."

And it is from this that a series of lunch-hour meetings, symposium and full-scale conferences began this year, falling under the name of the Public Policy Programme.

Through this programme, discussions are held on "topics that deal with anything to do with life in general.... and which relate to issues of what is going on in Canada," Doxy said.

Through the informal talks of the lunch-hour series or through the more formalized technical symposium, issues are presented on various problems which arise in Canada.

To recognize the problems is the first step, "but it is important to find the best instruments to manage our country," Doxy stated.

According to Doxy, the college has broadened its fellowship to "include informed and concerned individuals from outside the university" to assist in the programme. They regularly hold "forums of discussions, seminars, mini-conferences, debates, brain-storming meetings with these selected individuals, where issues of immediate relevance will be dealt with."

The aim of this is to exchange ideas and then refine them into policy directions. "And through this programme, we hope for a better informed citizenry, and improved media and better equipped public leadership," he said.

Doxey, unhesitatingly terming students "elitist", feels they are responsible for shaping the destiny of our society through their "unfettered scholarship and examples".

Doxey also asserts that students are here to achieve, but wishes to instruct them that "achieving is not simply a matter of accumulating high grades... but is an attitude of mind, such as learning to use your talents and expertise to the best advantage of society as a whole."

This programme is attracting increasing numbers of students, Doxy maintained. "Attendance is improving every time... the students are getting involved."

With this increasing interest in mind, "our goal for next year is to tie in what we're doing now with various college tutorials," he said.

The college also offers another program "to add culture." McLaughlin college has very strong ties with Fine Arts, Doxy maintained, hence the regular Chamber series.

This program also began this year, and the first session kicked off in October with an evening of Franz Schubert music featuring the Toronto Octet.

Overall, Doxy maintained, McLaughlin college is aiming to be a college which deals with "entire life."

Stong
In his first year as master of Stong College, Hedi Bouraoui has put into effect a program of "multiculturalism".

Bouraoui said his prime interest is to develop cultural studies for and about the Toronto ethnic communities. This interest does not rest solely with the history and tradition of these groups, but also as a study of how immigrants have adapted to the "Canadian way of life".

"And through our programs and activities, we can educate the public to the seminal role of the heritage of various ethnic cultures in Western culture," he said.

"We are dealing with culture as a toality in a multicultural context.... the context in which we live," he continued. And by doing this, Bouraoui hopes to not only bridge the gap between students, the university and the Toronto community, but to "open the university's doors for new immigrants."

Stong is fortunate to have an art gallery and a theatre, Bouraoui said, and both resources are used in the program for exhibits and shows based on the theme of multiculturalism, as well as being made available to Stong students who want to display their talents to the community.

Bouraoui said that Stong's fellowship has been an asset to the program "because we've drawn a high proportion of our fellows from the arts, television, politics and theatre."

The program focuses on culture in a social, cultural and academic way, maintained Bouraoui. "And it does not exclude any discipline."

"Our programs are essentially a humanistic view of man, mostly em-

phasizing humanities, fine arts, literature, plus a strong interest in sports," he continued.

Stong college is known in some circles as the "jock college". When questioned on this Bouraoui was emphatic in his response, "but sports is not divorced from culture." Bouraoui added that some of the college tutorials deal with sports.

As for student participation in this program, Bouraoui said it is "irregular", with participation in some programs but not



Stong master, Hedi Bouraoui

in others. He quickly added, "this is a problem in every college, not just ours."

Vanier
According to Vanier master Michael Creal, the college is looking for a whole range of interests to participate in their programs. And since Vanier is the home base for the Religious Studies Program, Classical Studies, Social and Political Thought program and the history department, their programs can be successfully enriched by diverse influences.

"It appears that the relationship with the people in the college is increasingly responsive," Creal said. "and based on our shared interests, this college runs a lot of special speakers, seminars and sym-

posiums."

The uniqueness of this college really lies within the student body, which is made clear by the student council's support of the academic programs.

"Last year's council wanted to emphasize academic participation in this college", Creal said, "and they raised the question about offering upper level seminars."

Subsequently, the council put forward \$5,000 for three upper level seminars which are credited in the Humanities department.

The major works of Tillich, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, respectively, have been selected for the three courses of study.

The council maintains that "these three authors were selected since they are similar in their unrelenting exploration of what it means to be radically and simply human."

These courses are designed to be considered under religious, philosophical, literary and historical categories and are of special interest for students whose academic interests include subjects in humanism, theories of interpretation, dialectics, existential thought or religious expression.

These courses are open to all York students and the only prerequisite is the permission of the course director. This year, 32 students signed up for these tutorials.

According to Creal, the college's next goal is to initiate upper level seminars and offer them simply as college seminars, rather than having them tied to any department.

Vanier's academic program also offers an annual conference. This four-year old college tradition, dealing with numerous aspects of Canadian culture and society, falls under the name of *Encounter Canada*.

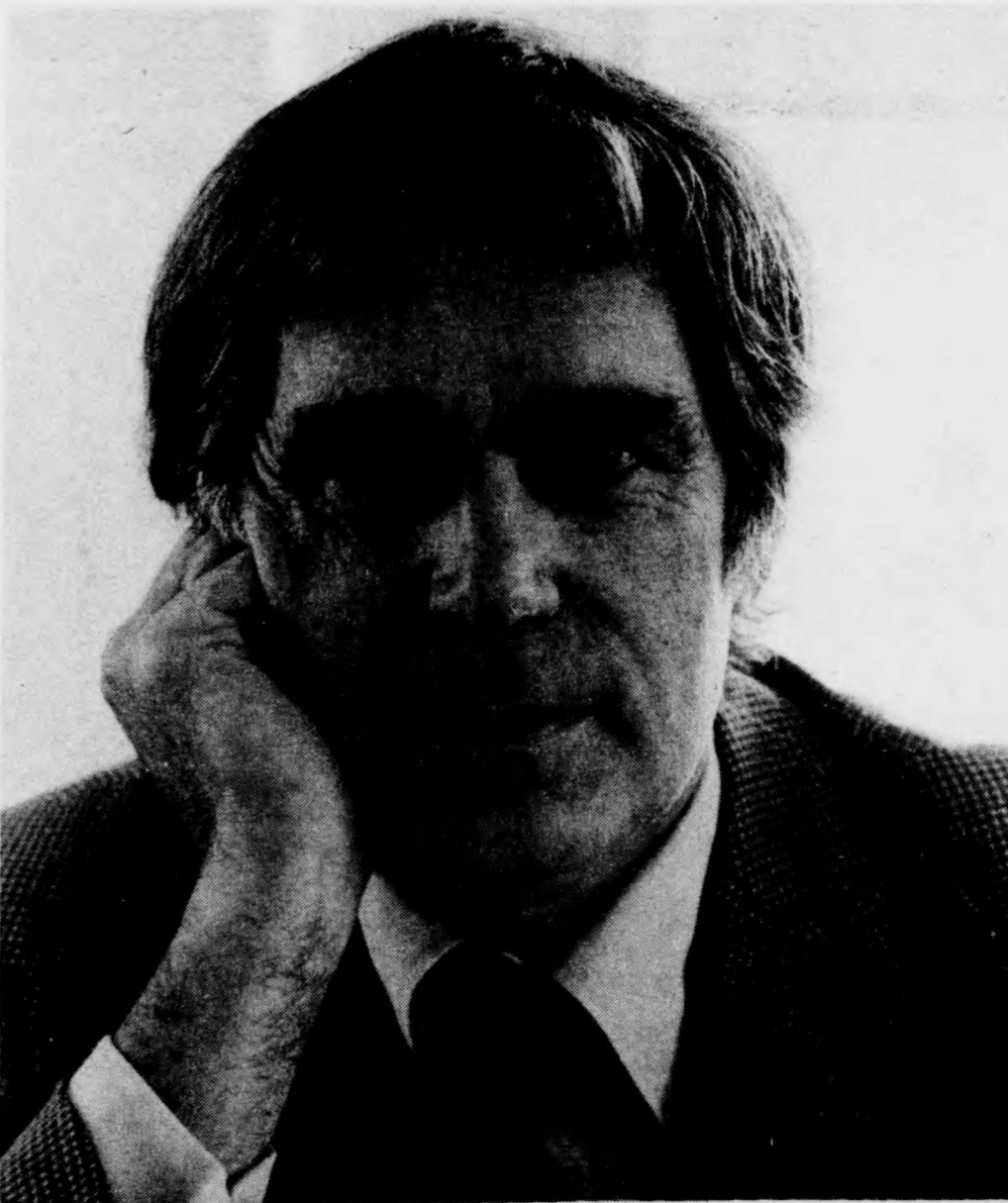
This year's conference was entitled *Native People*, and was "a celebration of the culture of the native people of Canada", said conference chairman, Mark Boudreau.

According to Boudreau, the college council contributed \$3,500 to the "very successful" conference.

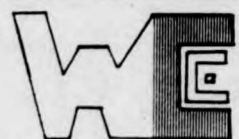
Boudreau maintained that the Vanier student council wants to spend less money on discos and the like to invest their money in extra academic activities.

"The biggest problem with this is having the students adjust to it," Boudreau noted, but added that they feel it will just be a matter of time.

Another bonus in the college's new direction is found in the increasing involvement of the fellows, remarked Boudreau.



Michael Creal, master of Vanier



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