

Inside the Board of Governors

Now that I have sat on the Board of Governors for a couple of months, I feel prepared to give you a preliminary indication of a student's reception by the other member, and an idea of what students may hope to accomplish through the Board.

Two students are elected to the Board by the York student body; my counterpart is Malcom Montgomery, a political science major whose term as a Governor ends this spring. Two members are elected or appointed by the Senate (York's academic governing council), and two members of the York University Alumni Association are appointed or elected by the Council of York University Alumni. The above six members serve two-year terms.

The core of the Board, however, is composed of 24 individuals elected by members of the Board for four-year terms, subject to re-election for up to three successive terms of four years each. These "External Members" give the Board the flavour for which it is known. They tend to be distinguished businessmen and lawyers chosen as much for influence they wield in governmental and financial communities as for the character example they hopefully set for the University.

The Chairman of the Board is Mr. John Proctor, Vice President of Mutual Life Assurance of Canada. He was the first Chairman of the Board's Public and Community Relations Committee, established in 1959, and has served on the Board ever since. With his authoritarian hand he sets the tone at Board meetings, where I have seen him alternately admonish members to attend more University functions, and praise the same individuals for their strong performance on behalf of York.

Not surprisingly, the President, Ian Macdonald, plays the next most prominent role at Board meetings, contributing comments based on his

experience as the leading spokesman for the University. Messrs. Proctor Macdonald combine with other members, like Mr. Gregory Cooper, of Bastedo, Cooper, Kluwak & Shostack, and Mr. John C. Eaton, Chairman of the Board for his family's company, to create the polished professional images that emanate from the Boardroom. Meetings are open to the University (held at 4:00 p.m., on the second Monday of every month. Come to the Boardroom at Glendon, but if you come, see that you're in a suit.

As you might expect, women are under-represented on the Board. Of the 30 members, only three are women. Mrs. Sonja Bata is Chairman of the important Public and Community Relations Committee; with her business like air she strikes an intimidating figure. She is accompanied by Mrs. Ann Dubin, a Q.C. with the top-rated law firm of Tory, Tory Deslauriers & Binnington, and Professor Joyce Zemans.

Attending the two-hour Board meeting once monthly is not an onerous task, but, of course, such attendance alone is insufficient for a representative to voice student interests adequately. To express our interests effectively, the student member has to take some personal initiatives and/or participate through the Board's various committees. In trying to accomplish either objective, he must confront the image which he as a student fills in the eyes of other Board members.

Students, faculty and alumni won a voice on the Board of Governors, but the bias in favor of the honed professional will always exist.

This is not to suggest that a student's participation is worthless. On the contrary, it should be invaluable to the Board's decision-making. My point to emphasize the Janus-

like role of the the student member, who must straddle the line between governor and governed.

How will these factors affect a student's strategy in working with the Board?

It is easy for a young neophyte to breach established procedure of doing things, especially in a huge bureaucracy like a university. Sometimes it may be necessary to upset the applecart, but to do that as a new member would probably spell two years of fruitless frustration in terms of interaction with fellow Board members. And, as a student, one starts out with the disadvantage outlined above.

The challenge of gaining the confidence of the Board is mirrored by the same challenge in dealing with the administration.

So the student governor plays a tenuous role. If the life-blood of his political power flows from his elected position, he still needs a heart to pump it. The "heart" is intangible—the respect of other governors, and of administrators. Without that respect, the vitality of his position dies, and students go unrepresented in the University's central decision-making body.

How I shall perform as your representative on the Board of Governors remains to be seen. I have introduced myself to most of the student governing councils at York, and have contacted all the media on campus. I have embarked on two reports, on campus labor relations and campus food catering, and both ideas have been well received by those Board members who have commented on my thoughts. They are both areas in which there is room for improved performance. One of Osgoode's labor experts, Professor Henry Glasbeek, is helping me with the report on campus labor relations, as is Mr. William Farr, York's Vice-President of Employee

and Student Relations. The food catering report has already involved widespread student input, as well as guidance from the administration.

Naturally, I would like both reports to be comprehensive, thought-provoking, and constructive. But, while the merit of the reports will be judged critically, their reception at the Board of Governors may

well depend upon the look of the three-piece suit I wear to next month's meeting...

John Weston is one of our student representatives on the Board of Governors. The opinions expressed in this article are his and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or editors of Excalibur.

Career Centre

JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUES

Friday	10 am - 12 pm	Feb. 26-Mar. 12
Friday	10 am - 12 pm	Mar. 19-Apr. 2
Tuesday	2 pm - 4 pm	Feb. 23-Mar. 9
Tuesday	2 pm - 4 pm	Mar. 16-30

Career Planning

Monday	7 pm - 10 pm	Feb. 22-Mar. 8
Monday	7 pm - 10 pm	Mar. 15-29
Thursday	2 pm - 4:30 pm	Jan. 21-Feb. 4
Thursday	2 pm - 4:30 pm	Feb. 25-Mar. 11
Thursday	2 pm - 4:30 pm	Mar. 18-Apr. 1

WORKSHOPS: Please note the dates and times for the new series of career workshops.

Each workshop consists of three sessions. Students must register in advance and pay \$3.00 for materials in order to be admitted to a workshop. Register by dropping in to the Career Centre at N105 Ross (8:30 am-4:30 pm) or by calling 667-2518. Workshop participants will meet at the Career Centre for the first session.

Speaker Series

A successful job search strategy is to talk to the people who are doing the kind of work that is interesting to you. In this way you are collecting valuable and reliable information as well as developing a contact network. To assist students with connecting up to such experts from the "real" world, the Career Centre is continuing its successful monthly Speakers Series. Upcoming guests include:

Pat Jacobsen — *Careers*

with the Government — January 20, 1982.
Gail Kenyon & Jennifer Straw — *Careers and the Disabled* — February 10, 1982.

Ron Cappell — *Career in Consulting* — March 17, 1982.

These meetings are held in the Faculty Lounge (S869 & S872 Ross) at 12:00 pm.

LOGO CONTEST

As you can see, the Career Centre has a new logo. The winner of our contest was Jurgen Richter, a 3rd. year Visual Arts student. Jurgen not only wins the \$50.00 first prize but has an excellent qualification for his portfolio and/or resume. Taking advantage of a situation that allows your work to be seen by potential employers is an excellent career planning strategy for any profession!

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