

## Emergency Services Centre - 3333

# University

## Programs, coaching spark gymnastics team strength

Last spring York gymnasts dominated the Canadian Intercollegiate Gymnastic Championships.

The men took top team honours. And in women's competition where representation is by conference, not school, four of the six members of the first place team were York students. One of them, Susan Buchanan, won the individual championship.

This concentration of strength, surprising at a young university, springs largely from a commitment made several years ago by the Department of Physical Education, and the resulting co-operation of the Ontario Gymnastics Federation.

When York was first opening the Steeles campus, Dr. Bryce Taylor, Phys. Ed. director, got together with Federation head John Hunter to discuss a common interest and the role the University could play in developing Canadian interest and strength in gymnastics.

### Summer seminars held

The result was a three-week gymnastics seminar in the summer of 1967 for coaches and athletes, the first of an annual series that has seen participants come from every Canadian province including the Yukon, and the United States.

Last summer, along with the coaches from across the country, some 240 female and 100 male gymnasts from eight to seventeen years-of-age enrolled in the program

on a first-come, first-served basis.

In short, it's become so successful that gymnastic federations in other provinces have approached the department to send it, coaches and all, on tour around the country.

Carol Anne Letheren, one of York's coaches and Taylor's assistant, doesn't completely dismiss the idea, but said this week "it would be tough to finance — and by the end of the three weeks people (coaches, including herself) are climbing the walls."

But she added one area of expansion could be in helping develop a strong national team.

### Canada not top-ranked

Canada has never been a top-ranked nation in gymnastics. In fact for the Munich Olympics next Fall the men must qualify before being admitted to the games.

Some experts predict the country won't be able to field a full men's team.

But the women's team is considerably better, and the same experts claim the women may finish as one of the top 10 entries. One possible member of that team is York's Sue Buchanan, who was at the 1970 World Games.

One of York's chief strengths in the sport, growing from contacts made through the summer programs and the Ontario Federation, has been its ability to

draw coaches of Olympic calibre.

Men's coach Tom Zivic, who arrived from Yugoslavia three years ago, took the Ontario junior team to Europe and led the York men to their first national intercollegiate championship. He has been head coach at the summer seminars and from that experience co-authored the first Canadian book on gymnastics. It's due out in February.

One of his collaborators was Boris Bajin, coach of Yugoslavia's national women's team who works at the seminars every summer, as does his wife Natasa, that country's top woman gymnast.

### Husband and wife teams

Another husband and wife team is Tudor and Tamara Bompá from Rumania. Tamara, a specialist in modern gymnastics, a relatively new sport in Canada, was responsible for the choreography of the Rumanian national team's routines for the 1970 World Games. Tudor, a men's coach, is also an international rowing coach.

Head women's coach Marie Folprecht comes from Czechoslovakia where she trained with Caslavská, the 1968 Olympic champion. She coaches for McMaster University in Hamilton and the College of Education along with her work at York.



Tom Zivic, men's gymnastics coach, shown above catching York team member Tom Kinsman as he flies off the horizontal bar. Kinsman, a Phys. Ed. graduate now enrolled in an MBA program, is one of York's top male gymnasts.

Marina van der Merwe, now teaching a unique program in rhythmic at York, came to Canada 10 years from South Africa by way of Denmark where she did her gymnastic training.

students — not all of course having gymnastics as their prime interest — constituting more than 3000 course registrants. The department has a full-time staff of 21, along with several part-time instructors.

### Tait fully used

Both Letheren and Roger Seaman, acting chairman while Taylor is on sabbatical, claim the major problem now is to find space to accommodate these people, along with the increasing numbers who use Tait McKenzie for recreational purposes. Already some offices have been moved to other buildings.

One of the students she's taught who was mentioned earlier is Carol Anne Letheren, a U. of T. graduate who spent a year studying gymnastics in Europe.

With Taylor, Letheren has developed a training program for beginner judges that must now be taken by all who wish to qualify as gymnastics judges in Ontario.

So York gymnastics have matured a lot in the past few years. The Ontario Federation is now recommending the University to its top competitors and several athletes on government scholarships are arriving in the Phys. Ed. Department.

This year, there are 320 Phys. Ed.

So not all those at York are letting the fat grow. The facilities are being used to the full. And for the gymnastics enthusiast, Letheren says there is "a very strong likelihood" the University will be the site for the first trials in March for the Canadian Olympic gymnastics team, and is definitely hosting the 1973 Canadian National Championships.



Tamara Bompá, women's coach, is resting on the uneven bars while teaching a gymnastics class in Tait McKenzie Building.

## Odds & Sodds

### Term length revised

The Senate of the University recently approved a revised length of term beginning with the 1972-73 session. Three changes are incorporated: the first term starts one week earlier; there is a three-week Christmas break; and classes will be cancelled on Jewish holy days that fall between Monday and Friday.

### Grant cheques ready

Some second term installment grant cheques are available this week. Cheques may be picked up by undergraduate students in the lobby

area on the second floor of the Ross building; by others in Room 9, Temporary Office Building. Hours at both locations are 9:00 am - 12 noon, and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

### Student art exhibit

The Stong College Art Gallery is exhibiting work by students in the Faculty of Fine Arts until January 29. Gallery hours are 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

### Centre runs theatre course

The Living Theatre, a ten-week course sponsored by the Centre for

Continuing Education, begins February 8. The fee is \$40.00. For further information, contact the Centre at 635-2501.

### Quote of the week

Culture is the consciousness of truth expressed in conduct. Good form appears to be the accumulated weariness of centuries expressed in a general air of boredom.

—Peter McArthur, To be taken with salt, 1903, 149.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate students proceeding towards a Master's Degree may apply for the *Bell Centennial Fellowships*. Field of study is unrestricted but preference will be given to subject areas relevant to the scientific, political, social, or economic needs of Canada. The award lasts for 12 months, and although not automatic, renewal will be considered.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status one year prior to application. Fellowship holders will be permitted to instruct or demonstrate in the academic year, if approved by supervisor. Fellowships are tenable at any Canadian university which is affiliated to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Apply before March 1 to Director of Awards, AUCC, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P5N1.

## Five York photogs take national awards

Four York students and one staff member recently won awards in an annual competition held by the National Film Board's Still Photography Department.

The students — Kristina Ziobro, Brian Condron, Dianne Ellis and Bill Masters — all study with Michael Semac and Neil Newton in the Faculty of Fine Arts' Program in Art. Rick Lampert works in the photography section of the Department of Instructional Aid Resources.

A total of 950 amateurs and professionals — all under 25 — submitted some 18,000 photographs. Of 200 chosen, the five from York had 16 shots picked as winners.

The photographs — of subjects ranging from portraits to fallen leaves — will be on display in Ottawa from January 26 at the National Film Board's Picture Gallery. Following the showing, "Photography 25" will be taken on a travelling exhibition to tour the country.