## Looking to the university of the future

Association of Commonwealth Universities in Hong Kong:

Since the birth rate in almost all industrialized countries is falling dramatically, we are faced now with a labor force that is getting progressively older. Un-der these conditions, it is becoming increasingly clear that a great deal of retraining will be necessary in the labor force. As a vehicle for adaptive training, the university must be at the forefront to assist in that process.

We must be prepared to get the best out of the people we have, and be prepared to match skills to opportunities. Through the educational system, we can provide the degree of retraining and continuing education which will make it possible for us both to

fulfil our employment requirements and to satisfy the legitimate desires and demands of the current generation. This will require the provision of degree and non-degree programs to meet the changes in society's demands

• a broader education for those who received a narrow technical training and wish to expand their educational base and change their roles;

professionals (teachers, planners, environmentalists, lawyers, managers, etc.);

• the introduction to new technical developments in science, management, law, planning and othe rfields.

Individuals should be given the opportunity at all points, during their lifetime, to find a new occupation that taxes their abilities and their innate capacity. This is where economic policy and education come closely together. In order to solve our unemployment problems, I believe it is essential first to create a sense of security among individuals so that hanging on at all costs to a job and obstructing technological progress is folly for all concerned.

However, in order to allay

the fear of unemployment, we must be capable to ensuring that such individuals have the opportunity for new and fulfilling occupations. Thus, it is our responsibility to see that reducational policy is following the arrangements, we have a rich arrangements, we have a rich arrangements, we have a rich arrangement of the universities of the influence of the universities of the universities of the influence of the universities of th

increasing tendency toward the

education becomes more of a lifetime experience, rather than a post-secondary school progres-

Continuing education will be increasingly important, as more people who were denied an opportunity at one time in their lives will have a second or third chance. As part-time study becomes more and more prominent in the university, the university, in turn, must then adapt its procedures radically to cope with changing styles and expectations.

We must be prepared to take the university to students as well as taking students to the university. Education at the workplace, on weekends, and by the electronic media will be the harbingers of the future.

One other significant role for the universities of the inmovements and changing experience in the provision of behavior of society. Although the primary ing as well as general education emphasis will remain on the full- for students from Third World time enrolment of students, the countries in the developed

• upgrading in competence part-time student who also has and perspective for people faced employment or family comneed for greatly expanded ex-

exchange of data, information, research materials, joint projects

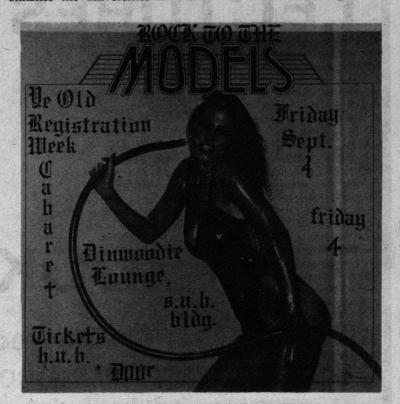
and publications, and so on.

Not only would these exchanges aid the developing countries, but they would greatly enhance the universities in the

York University President with early obsolescence of their mitments is characteristic change of faculty between univerH. lan Macdonald speaking to the knowledge of skills; throughout the world. This is sities in the developed and faculty first-hand knowledge

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• regular updating for understandable as university developing nations as well as for about other countries, their people and their cultures. It would also offer an opportunity for "mid-career" enrichment and enable the contributing univer-sities to support a much larger over-all faculty complement, within constrained budgets.



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