

The Search Begins : Crook takes the mike

By Kaberi Dasgupta

"Universities in the 1980's: Dilemmas and Debates" was the topic that began the campaigning of UPEI's Presidential candidates.

Two Mondays ago, Professor Rodney Crook, Foundation Professor of Sociology at the University of Tasmania, presented his opinions in a public review.

Professor Crook has held positions at MacMaster University, University of British Columbia, Dalhousie, and Carleton. He has also held visiting positions in such places as Edinburgh and Princeton University where he obtained his master's and his doctorate.

Although the night of the speech was rather stormy, the

room was packed full.

Opening with a brief history of universities in the Western world, Dr. Crook then focused on the present.

"Today's university has a frustrated, apathetic atmosphere. This is due to the constricted mobility which has arisen from financial need and various other dilemmas."

Quality versus access was the first topic discussed.

"If a university is a social resource, it should be available for the community," said Dr. Crook.

It keeps the university "alive and relevant" within its situation. In effect, he felt that the university must explain itself because it needs the community's support.

"Quality", stated Crook, "is a question of standards. The argument that standards are declining has been posed

with little evidence. I am disturbed by attempts to redefine quality by closing doors to more individuals.

Summing up, he explained, "Society needs excellence, and more people need the opportunity to be exposed to it."

How does he feel about conflicts applied and pure studies?

"In principle, I see no basis for the tension between applied and pure studies. There is a need for 'detached

scholars', but applied colleges are still a necessity."

Crook thinks it wrong, however, to educate people on the basis of needs in the labour market, since by the time people being trained reach the market, there may be less demand for individuals with their qualifications.

Thus, Professor Crook said applied studies should involve some of the same criteria as pure studies.

"Students should be given the capacity to analyze and

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Dr. Terrence M. Hogan spoke Monday night in the Duffy Amphitheatre in his bid for the Presidency of UPEI. (Photo: MacLeod)

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Then, Hogan has his turn

By Carolyn Ryan

The second candidate vying for the job of President used his "Irish charm" on a large audience in Duffy Amphitheatre Monday night.

Dr. Terrence Hogan told about 75 professors, students, and civilians that "the human dimension is the most important in a region's development," and that education, especially post-secondary, is the surest way of insuring our intellectual future.

"Protecting our Intellectual Future" was the title of the required public lecture Hogan gave, though he called it a "meaningless" one.

The University of Manitoba's Associate Vice-President (Academic) and holder of a PhD in Psychology from the Catholic University of America admitted that speaking on such a topic before such an audience made him feel like Elizabeth Taylor's eighth husband on their wedding night: "I know what's expected of me, but not how to make it new and exciting."

He then launched into a discussion of accessibility in post-secondary education, and how it can be endangered by increasing tuition and imposing quotas on the number of students admitted, both of which measures have been tried in

the Prairie provinces and British Columbia.

Hogan thinks one method of alleviating funding squeezes without compromising principles or increasing obligations to the government is "selling higher education" to industry, alumni, and other groups by means of soliciting donations.

He doesn't think this would impose obligations in another director, as long as organizers of donation drives clearly realized that the whole package must be promoted, not only certain technology-oriented disciplines.

"It's difficult to think of a university without (for example) a Classics Department," he said, noting that disciplines perceived as "not immediately relevant" must be protected.

"People need more than technological knowledge to be successful citizens," he said in response to a question.

Hogan criticized the recent slamming of modern universities in the book *The Great Brain Robbery*, saying it's the kind of "polemic" politicians who have never read anything about the problems of post-secondary education are likely to read.

Hogan then proceeded to described some of the problems in Canadian society, such as institutionalized unemployment, an increasingly older population and the need to develop systems of

dealing with these. That's where universities become vital to change in a new environment.

In answer to questions, Hogan made the following stands:

— on absentee presidents: "The President has both internal and external responsibilities ... but should spend a reasonable amount of time visible on campus. If this is impossible, there should be someone available to handle the responsibilities when the President is away."

— on tenure and the "lost generation" of graduate students unable to find work in Canadian universities: "You can try to have people in the existing pool of staff step down ... or implement a policy of greater part-time faculty contributions. NSERC and other research councils could be asked to look at the problem."

— on his reasons for applying for the position: "If I could live my life over again, I'd do it as an Islander. This is an interesting and rewarding job, and I like administration."

Hogan closed his lecture by quoting from Cardinal Newman and Camus, and told his audience, "Though we may feel we're in dangerous times, we must remember that the responsibility for the future is largely ours."




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"I like the taste of a cold beer on a hot day, but I certainly don't think you have to get the gang together with a couple of cases of beer just to celebrate the fact you've had a bit of exercise."

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