

RALUT REPORTER

RETIRED ACADEMICS AND LIBRARIANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Visit our Web site at www.ralut.utoronto.ca

Vol. 9 No. 3 Winter 2010



President's Report

Jack Stevenson

It has been a busy winter term with action on many fronts. Some of our activities are discussed elsewhere in this issue, but I give here a general overview.

Pensions. Pensions are a perennial concern of our members. Are our pensions safe? What changes might be coming down the road? Your Pensions Committee, under its Chair Helen Rosenthal, as well as three other retiree representatives on UTFA Council, have been keeping watch on the situation. Indeed, some of our members are on the team negotiating the 2009-2010 agreement between UTFA and the University.

On the first question, it is reasonable to say that the pensions of *current* retirees are "safe." On the second question, there is a possibility of fundamental changes. The process for a 2009-2010 agreement between UTFA and the University has been underway for some time. Since some of the issues such as workload do not affect us directly, it seems prudent at this juncture for retirees to take a somewhat low profile approach on them. The issue of faculty unionization has come up again. (See the UTFA web site for Scott Prudham's "Bargain Report #5 for 2009-2010, December 2, 2009," in which there is some mention of this.). What position, if any, retirees might have in a unionized faculty is under legal investigation, so it would be premature to discuss that here, and there is no need for undue alarm. In short, with the situation fluid and the details of negotiations confidential, as usual, it seems best to keep a quiet, careful watching brief on these matters at this time.

RALUT Annual General Meeting

**27 April 2010,
from 11:00, Hart House Music Room**

Registration from **11:00 am** in the Music Room, second level of Hart House, with a **sandwich lunch** and hobnobbing in the South Dining Room, immediately opposite.

Program begins at **1:00 pm** with our speaker **Professor Raisa B. Deber**, Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation speaking on **Health Care in Canada: What's the diagnosis?** in which she asks, If the population is aging and we will all need lots of care, will Canada's health care system ensure that it is there for us?

Business meeting to follow

Benefits. Under its Chair, Ruth Pike, much of the work of the Benefits Committee for the last seven months has been devoted to thrashing out a Policy and Procedure for dealing with requests for affiliation agreements. Typically, we receive a proposal from an organization—an insurance company, a financial advisory group, a literary magazine—offering us the opportunity of a reduced rate for our members. In exchange, they get some form of advertising directed to our members.

We now have a Policy and Procedure approved by the Benefits Committee and the Executive Committee. It is fairly complex, but basically it requires us clearly to ascertain (a) what potential benefit there is for our members, (b) what quid pro quo is requested, and (c) whether the proposal would violate any of our policies, such as our important

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privacy policy. Proposed affiliations are vetted by the Benefits Committee and then the Executive Committee, with final approval resting with the latter body.

Although an affiliation offer is made to us as a *group*, any decision to accept any such offer is made by *individual* members, who have to do their own due diligence, taking into account their interests, needs and circumstances, as well as other comparable opportunities. RALUT would simply be announcing an opportunity for individual decision. Our national body of which we are a member, CURAC, has entered into several affiliations; individual university retirees' associations, such as McGill's and Queen's have also done so. (See <http://www.curac.ca> and follow the links to benefits.)

Public Policy. The Chair of this Committee, Don Bellamy, and his members have been compiling a list of resources for those of us who might be searching for information, advice or assistance about living accommodations, such as seniors' residences and nursing homes. As we, or our partners, age we sometimes need to consider alternative living arrangements. The resource the Committee is preparing will be an addition to a series of such resources—about health records and financial records, for instance—that we have prepared and which are available on our web site.

Membership. Claudia Colas, after giving us excellent service as Chair of Membership and social convenor, has had to relinquish the former position due to other conflicting personal obligations. We thank her and wish her well. Our Vice-President (Operations), Diane Henderson, has kindly agreed to be Chair pro tem. She will, with other members of the Committee, be conducting a review of our membership activities.

Commemorative Initiatives. Under the leadership of Beate Lowenberg, the *Undergraduate Endowed Memorial Award* in memory of deceased RALUT members is doing well. As of November 1, 2009, the latest report we have, the book value of the fund was \$35,218.26. We awarded a \$1,000 scholarship last year and will give another this year and in the future. During a time of high unemployment, what better way to honour a loved one's memory than to help a needy student get an education? When you are asked, please give generously.

Communications. We have had an interesting report by Diane Henderson on the work of this Task Force. I must say that, although I was the nominal Chair, Diane and Ken Rea did the bulk of the work. This report recommended that the

REPORTER now come out three times a year, because there tends to be a dearth of copy during the summer; moreover this change reduces our expenses. Our hard working Editor, Fred Wilson, would welcome contributions of columns or items and some editorial help. Reach out to him at fwilson@chass.utoronto.ca.

ARC and Senior College. Our relations with our "offspring," the Academic Retiree Centre (ARC) and Senior College, continue to evolve amicably. Your President serves on the Board of Management of ARC and is a Fellow of Senior College, where in both cases he keeps his cooperative eye on this evolution. You might note, for instance, that the annual Symposium has been taken over by Senior College, which will organize and pay for it. I urge you to visit the ARC web site and its link to Senior College. It is quite splendid and chock full of interesting material, such as pod casts of the weekly talk series of Senior College.

Related Organizations. We are members of CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada). This year the CURAC conference and AGM will be held at York University from May 18-20 inclusive. We previously agreed to support York with a grant of \$3,000 from our reserve fund. Our Past-President, Doug Creelman, will be organizing a special session on benefits at that meeting. Doug will also be representing us at the AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) AGM, October 14-17, 2010 at Wesleyan University, Middleton, CT. Moreover, he will speak for us at a seminar for prospective retirees being organized by the University of Toronto. We thank Doug for being our travelling senior statesman.

RALUT Annual General Meeting. As announced elsewhere in this issue, our AGM will be held this year on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Note that this year it is being held in the gothic splendour of Hart House. Our organizer, Roselyn Stone, has upgraded our facilities and food service, because the AGM is the one time that a large number of our members can get together and we want it to be a convivial occasion. Our guest speaker, Professor Raisa Deber, an acknowledged leader in her field and a lively presenter, will speak on a subject dear to our hearts—the future of medical services for seniors in Canada. The business meeting will also be special because by that time RALUT should be incorporated. Mark the AGM as an important event in your calendar; you won't want to miss it.

Incorporation. I have spent a significant portion of my time recently on the technicalities of this matter. In this tedious work I have been ably assisted by Diane Henderson, Doug

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The Jackman Report, Naylor response and Teplitsky award

Helen Rosenthal

On Feb. 20 we saw the release of the long-awaited Jackman Report concerning UTAM, the U of T Asset Management Corporation. President Naylor released his response to this Report at the same time.

The Jackman Report is very critical of UTAM for its investment strategy. Of course, anyone who has been reading commentary about UTAM, whether in the REPORTER, in UTFA Newsletters or in the newspapers, will not be surprised by these conclusions. It would have been impossible not to be critical of UTAM. Under UTAM, the Pension Fund and the Endowment Fund were invested so poorly that, for example, our Pension Fund return was the worst of 23 Canadian university pensions plans measured in 2008, losing almost 30% of its value from the previous year. The Endowment fund fared no better under UTAM as it was invested according to the same, very expensive, high-risk strategy.

The Jackman Report makes 7 specific recommendations for changes in the investment strategy as well as the governance of the Pension Fund and the Endowment Fund, and President Naylor's response addresses and supports these

recommendations. The seven points include the creation of a Chief Investment Officer and an investment committee, the retention of UTAM as a corporation but with a Board composed only of three members of the senior administration, and a reassessment of risk and return targets.

You will recall that in the last arbitration settlement, arbitrator Martin Teplitsky set out terms for a Pension Committee that would take over the role of administrator of the Pension Plan from the Business Board. He directed that this Pension Committee would have 16 members: 9 appointed by the Governing Council, 4 appointed by UTFA (one of whom must be a retired member of the Pension Plan), and 3 appointed by the unions representing the other Pension Plan members. The Teplitsky award also directs that UTFA be given one seat on the UTAM Board of Directors.

Among the many questions that arise at this point, given the content of the Jackman Report, the Naylor response and the Teplitsky arbitration award, is one concerning the place of the Teplitsky Pension Committee in the reorganized structure proposed by Jackman and Naylor, and another concerning UTFA's seat on the proposed smaller UTAM Board.

You can read the Jackman Report and Naylor's response at <http://www.president.utoronto.ca/pci-report-and-response.htm>

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Creelman, Beate Lowenberg, and Lino Grima in drafting the necessary legal documents, adapting to our needs and customs the Ministry pre-approved templates provided by our lawyer. Let me begin with a brief history, insofar as I know it, in order to explain why RALUT is moving to a new corporate status.

RALUT was founded on February 19, 2001 as a voluntary association with no legal status. Effective June 25, 2002, it became, under the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, a business corporation with shares under the name "RALUT Inc." Its head office was registered as Prichard House, but then it migrated to 144 Front Street and eventually to 256 McCaul Street, where we have new facilities in the ARC complex. We have in the Archives By-Laws for the Corporation and a Constitution dating from 2004, with some small subsequent changes made, for example, in 2006.

In the period 2006-2007 we received legal advice from our lawyer, Maya Lees, that it was inappropriate for RALUT

to be a business corporation. Nor would it be appropriate for us to be a charitable corporation because of the legal restrictions that would be placed on our advocacy activities and expenditures.

Her advice was to tidy up our tax affairs, to dissolve the business corporation and to reincorporate RALUT as a non-profit, non-charitable corporation without shares. At its June 2007 meeting the Executive Committee voted to follow her advice. Finally, in December 2008 the business corporation was dissolved and RALUT entered back into legal limbo as merely a voluntary organization without official legal status.

We are in the process of re-incorporating as she advised. With its legal consultations, NUANS name search, an application for letters patent, and so on, this is well in train. When this process is completed—as we intend before the 2010 AGM—we will have a legal existence appropriate to our main objective as an organization advocating for retired academics and librarians of the University of Toronto.

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Benefits Bulletin

Tuition waivers

According to Keithann Newton, Benefits Specialist in the Human Resources Department, eligibility for tuition waivers is dependent upon the retiree's appointment held prior to retirement and is approved on the same basis and eligibility principles as active staff.

- Retirees who wish to take courses (same eligibility as active staff) should complete a staff tuition waiver and provide the fees invoice to Benefits, Central Human Resources by mail, fax or drop-off. The Retiree should allow a minimum of one business day for confirmation of eligibility and approval. If the Retiree retired prior to 1998, eligibility for a tuition waiver is to be determined by Benefits Administration, Central Human Resources, in conjunction with University of Toronto Pension Services.
- For degree courses, the value of part-time studies will be awarded to eligible Retirees.
- For school of continuing studies, once the waiver is approved the Retiree is responsible for providing the tuition waiver along with the registration form to the School of Continuing Studies [processing fee, balance of course fee (those courses over \$500), fax #, and mailing address are available on the registration form]. There is a maximum of six school of continuing studies courses per academic year (September to August).

Shingles Vaccine

Zostavax 19400/0.65, the newly approved vaccine for shingles, is not covered by OHIP. I received the vaccine on the recommendation of my physician. The cost was nearly \$200. Fortunately, Green Shield covered all but \$5.00.

Vision Problems?

- There is a lot of help available in Ontario. The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provides help to persons with various physical disabilities including visual loss. Individuals with low vision or blindness that cannot be medically or surgically corrected may apply for the ADP program.

Assessments for eligibility can be carried out by ophthalmologists, optometrists or vision rehabilitation specialists who are ADP authorized.

The program includes optical devices such as magnifiers and specialized glasses, reading and writing devices such as audio book playback units, closed circuit television, tape recorders and Braille and mobility devices such as canes. Persons with severe disabilities may be eligible for up to 75% of the cost of the devices.

- Demonstrations of visual aids are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). The demonstrations include the use of new computer software such as Jaws and Zoom text, which improve seeing, and hearing. No registration is required to attend.
- Persons who cannot use a library branch or bookmobiles due to age, illness or physical disability can apply for delivery library services from the Toronto Public Library. Large Print books, books on digital audiotape and talking books are available. Talking books are restricted to persons with a perceptual disability resulting from a visual or comprehensive impairment.
- The CNIB library addresses the needs of visually impaired persons who require literature in formats such as Braille or audio. Currently the libraries are undertaking complete digital transformation. The CNIB Digital Library offers on-line access to books, newspapers and databases such as Encyclopedia Britannica. Books and audio material may be placed on hold by mail.

For more information call:

CNIB Library: 416-486-2500

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care: 1-800-268-6021; in Toronto call 416-327-8804

Home Library: in Toronto call 416-395-5557

Note: Our thanks to Gordon Nikiforuk, a RALUT member with visual problems, who has provided the material for this Benefits Bulletin.

University of Toronto Benefits Contact List

A list of contact information for inquiries about your benefits at University of Toronto is now available on the RALUT website in the Benefits Committee section. Our thanks to Jack Stevenson for his work on this project. Hard copies of the contact list are available in the RALUT office for members who do not use e-mail.

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RALUT Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting 27 April 2010, from 11:00, Hart House Music Room

Winter has arrived, can spring be far behind? Well, yes, if you are of a glass-half-empty turn of mind, I guess, but April really will arrive before you know it, all that pretty snow notwithstanding. If you haven't already, please enter **RALUT AGM** in red letters in the **27 April** space in your pda/daytimer/wall calendar,

Registration from **11:00 am** in the Music Room, second level of Hart House, with a **sandwich lunch** and hobnobbing in the South Dining Room, immediately opposite.

Program begins at **1:00 pm** with our speaker **Professor Raisa B. Deber**, Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation speaking on **Health Care in Canada: What's the diagnosis?** in which she asks, If the population is aging and we will all need lots of care, will Canada's health care system ensure that it is there for us?

While there are other programs of RALUT, and now the Senior College, at which we can enjoy our colleagues' company, it is particularly the AGM when we look forward to getting together with many of old friends and associates. Do come, for the company and the food and to hear what RALUT is doing on your behalf. Especially the good company!

Getting there:

TTC Subway The closest Subway Stop is Museum. Walk south from the Museum stop on west side of University Ave, cross Hoskin Ave and continue south on Queen's

Park Circle about 30m to the pathway that runs right along the front of Hart House.

Bus No.5 Avenue Rd S, "Hart House Circle" stop lets you off right at that path.

No. 94 Wellesley "Trinity College" westbound or "Wycliffe College" eastbound -- either way the stop is called out as "Tower Road"

Parking available in Tower Road (leads south from Hoskin Ave to Soldiers' Tower.). Hart House Circle and King's College Circle. Staff in Hart House tell me that at the time of our AGM, we're a little more likely to be able to find parking in those areas.

Note: The **wheelchair ramp** runs off **Tower Rd** into the West Entrance of the House.

More about accessibility: the **elevator**, which serves all levels, is on the east-west corridor of the south wing between the front desk (known now as The Hub) and the Chapel. The **wheelchair lavatory** is on the first level near the entrance to the Great Hall. Other washrooms are on the lower and second levels.

Book Display Have you authored, co-authored or contributed to a book that you would be interested in bringing to the Book Display for the AGM? If so, please email the RALUT office ral.ut@utoronto.ca and put Book Display in the subject line. Or call the office at (416) 978 7256

See you there!

Roselyn Stone
AGM Organizer
416-485.7659
roselyn.stone@utoronto.ca

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CURAC Program

CURAC offers individual retirees who are members of associations involved with CURAC, automobile and home insurance at rates below standard group insurance premiums, where allowed by provincial law.

If you are interested, call the Waterloo Insurance Sales and Service Centre at 1-866-247-7700 to receive a no obligation quote.

Medical help in foreign countries

The International Association for Medical Assistance of Travellers (IAMAT) is a non-profit organization whose aim

is to advise travellers about health risks, the geographical distribution of diseases worldwide, immunization requirements for all countries, and to make competent medical care available to travellers by western-trained doctors who speak English besides their mother tongue. IAMAT offers a partial list of physicians trained in an English speaking country but who practice elsewhere. For more information, see their website, <http://www.iamat.org/>

Ruth Pike
Chair, Benefits Committee

Jack McLeod's *Uproar*

Many RALUT members will recall the earlier novel by Jack McLeod, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Zinger and Me, which contained both wisdom about and satire on universities, about Saskatchewan and Canadian politics – there was a nice parody of Fulton Anderson's speech at the opening of Sidney Smith Hall, though that speech did not really need parody to be funny, and there were some rather wise things about David Crombie and the Conservative – then Progressive Conservative – Party of Canada.

Well, Jack McLeod has returned to these things in this, his third novel, published in Toronto by Porcupine's Quill Press in 2008. It won't help him with his PTR, but still, it deserves to be noticed.

It is reviewed here by Elizabeth Legge, Chair of the Department of Fine Art.

Since almost every premise and situation in this book is alien to me, it was a great surprise to me that I enjoyed it so much. Roughly, what happens is that, in a reversal of usual narratives, the wife of a middle aged tenured university professor at Chiliast U., J. T., leaves him for no apparent reason (at least, not apparent to him). She may be a shallow flake who dresses too young for her age, but J.T. wants her back, so he sulks, hits the bottle, eats badly micro-waved frozen dinners, lets his house get squalid, gets caught in a series of pratfalls brought on by drink and confusion, and nevertheless establishes a serious relationship with an attractive, intelligent colleague, Pepper, who cheerily self-describes as an “old academic broad”.

J.T. is helped on his path by his male friends, most notably the wild and witty freeloader Zinger, a Saskatchewan journalist and aspiring novelist on a fellowship at Chiliast. In a masculinist version of self-help therapy, Zinger tells J.T. to stop whining and get on with life. We are told that male bonding is bred into men by the necessities of war: men need to “collaborate with each other in a fight, guard the other guy's back for him, pick him up if he falls.” This “tough code of loyalty that helps men survive” is acted out by J. T. and his friends, but in the manner of university professors rather than Hemingway. They drink and smoke and muse at length about the meaning of everything.

The novel is a wild ride through a year in the present, but it's a year that seems to stretch through the decades between the 1950's and present. This is at the heart of *Uproar's* comic effects. We notice that the heroes are able to do, and get away with doing, things unlikely in the contemporary world: they smoke in restaurants, Brylcreem their hair, eat

a lot of red meat, drink to excess, and putter around with restoring a Model T. The music of their youth was jazz, not rock, and they drink martinis in the manner of the original Rat Pack, not in the hip retro fashion of the 1990's. A “sleek hat-box toting brittle matrons of Forest Hill going in and out of Holt Renfrews,” is a sight from circa 1962: you can be pretty certain that the only people you'd see going in and out now would be nimble blonde second wives, and hardly ever with hat boxes. And why does Maggie Trudeau show up in a strip club scene, hanging out with “some stoned musician or other,” unless we're back in 1976? This time hopping device captures the actual effects of aging and memory, and the poignant confusions of trying to reorder and re-evaluate one's history after a failed relationship. McLeod's collapsing of the mores of different decades gives a hallucinatory intensity to the proceedings, inducing a kind of lucid confusion about the meanings of life and learning and love.

This book is conversational, and the male characters converse in a strange argot, a bit like the way science fiction imagines characters from different worlds speaking in a special interspecies lingua franca; this enhances McLeod's creation of an internally consistent imagined world. No one probably would say these things this way these days, but we are intrigued by a world in which they might. The novel's world has its own locutions, something like an academic version of Damon Runyan: these guys say “jeez” and “for Kristisake” and are occasionally flummoxed, buffaloed, bamboozled, and swacked. They accuse one another of having fun in a “pig's patoot”; they refer to a woman as a “pretty little number” and appreciate her being “rompy”; they plan to “blow this pop stand,” and they complain about the “shitteroo”. They are chumps, patsies, squares; they may have an ugly kisser; they are exploited by “media Charlies,” and they get jollies. This flamboyant and imaginative kidding is juiced up with quotations from T. S. Eliot, John Newlove, and William McIlvanney, references to the wife of Bath, J. D. Salinger, and limericks, and interjections along the lines of “here endeth the lesson”. The drunk J. T. foggily muses at a bar:

The customer is always right, and other patent lies of commerce. “I am the master of my fate/I am the captain of my soul,” and other naïve untruths of the poets... I guess I'm just the cabin boy on the leaky ship of matrimony. “God's in Her Heaven, all's hell with the world. Ho.”

The men boozily ruminate and show off what they know, ranging from their personal tastes in music, cars, and women, to serious consideration of what it once meant to be culturally

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Jack McLeod's Uproar continued from page 6

Canadian, before free trade made business models of us all. They are Canadian in face of the knowledge that “to people in London or New York, *Canada* is not a good address.” They scrutinize the endangered Canadian university, looking back to a time when humanities mattered as much as business and management schools and science directed by the interests of corporate profit; when Northrop Frye and Marshall McLuhan and Harold Innis were international names. In the J.T. world vision, there were once humanist giants, unlike the present day professionalized narrow specialists who write “petty dross” for other specialists. They want a return to an intellectual great man history of big ideas and great books, a time when there were “real” academic disciplines like economics and history, before “women’s studies” and “sexual diversity studies” somehow derailed their train of thought. In this vein, J.T. is unashamedly dismissive, and he conjures up dangerous caricatures such as the badly groomed, humourless, hairy feminist, and a pretentious young woman professor of literature who uses French theory as a hollow float for lack of thought. Here McLeod succinctly captures the anxiety that afflicts each generation of professors, as new points of view and intellectual methods come along and force them to either update their M.O. or to grumpily retrench in their old mental habits. But things are not as simple in *Uproar* as these caricatures might lead us to imagine.

A subplot of the book has to do with a search committee for the principal of a college. The proceedings allow J.T. to dismiss political correctness and affirmative action as impediments to free thought, free speech (or, more accurately, free banter). Ultimately, however, J.T. turns out to be a surprisingly stalwart supporter of a capable gay man for

college principal. In this world, saying that someone is “light in the loafers,” does not mean anything truly dismissive, and in fact J.T. cunningly and fearlessly exposes the University President as a duplicitous homophobe. There is no question that working out distinctions between colourful locutions and actual misogynist, racist, and homophobic slurs is landmined territory, but J.T. goes boldly there. The search committee itself seems completely implausible, surely one that could only exist a comic novel. Whenever was there such a search committee, on which the members were motivated by values or ideologies (feminist, humanist, etc.), by concern for the collective good however understood, and not by opportunism and the low-grade power politics of exchanging favours? Even outside the search committee, it becomes clear that while J.T. and Zinger are prepared to be feckless domestic slobs, drunks, expedient liars, gamblers, and pranksters, they are in their way ethical.

The academic world is a talkie one, and the topics in this engagingly conversational novel are profoundly inflected by McLuhan and Innis. What is at stake is communication itself within the machinery of capitalism and corporate conglomerates, the deleterious effects of television, and the disappearance of informed journalism in favour of crass infotainment. (In the *Uproar* way of putting things, the “True Ark of the Media Covenant” would turn out to be empty.) A climactic event is Zinger’s over the top book launch held in a strip club, with lots of drugs and booze and mayhem. While this lampoons the culture of publicity stunts, it also celebrates it in a naughty lad way: in this world the wives enjoy the strippers too, and the strippers are really just graduate students making an extra buck. Probably this

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And—this is most important—the officers, executive and indeed the members of RALUT will have limited legal liability (rather than open-ended individual liability) in carrying out its activities. Our charitable activities will carry on as before, using the University’s capacity to issue tax receipts.

Most things will remain as they were, but you will notice a few obvious changes and some refinements. Instead of an Executive Committee, we will have a Board of Directors. At the Annual General Meeting, RALUT members will elect this Board for the ensuing year. The Board in turn will elect the Officers. (This is actually the procedure set out in our present Constitution, but we have not followed it in practice. Now we will.) Of course, a Nominating Committee will normally present a slate of Directors to the AGM, which can be rejected or modified by the

members, and it may present for information to the AGM its recommendations to the Board for Officers.

I ask for your patience as we go through the formalities. We are keenly aware that RALUT is a democratic organization: the will of the members is paramount and shall prevail.

This report is rather long. But as I said, your servants have been busy and you have a right to know what has been going on.

General Notice:

Remember RALUT’s “First Wednesday of the Month” lunches and come and join us in the comfortable Main Dining Room at the Faculty Club at 12 noon to enjoy conversation and one of the wonderful menu choices.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Attention, All 'Out-Of-Town' Ralut Members!

Should you be coming to Toronto, please consider planning your trip to coincide with one of our informal lunches on the first Wednesday of every month (12 noon) at the Faculty Club; or any other social event posted on the RALUT website.

Keep in touch! We would be so pleased to have you join us.

Jack McLeod's Uproar continued from page 7

would only happen in the domain of one of J.T.'s favourite historical genres, Hans Vaihinger's "philosophy as if."

If, in the beginning, I thought these men ought to be relegated to "Soriast U," by the end I found myself laughing with and at them. If they don't come up with any resolutions to the apparent fact that western democracy is going to hell in a handcart, they do cultivate their own gardens in the form of restoring an old Model T. J.T. and Zinger take up with smart, worthy women who are their equals and betters. In the end, there are no big philosophical answers, just the improved behaviour of the principals

and the romantic pairings that conclude a comedy. Hans Vaihinger, the author of "philosophy as if," came up with a concept that could frame *Uproar*, which is that fictions or false notions, in spite of their "theoretical nullity" may have "great practical importance." One such fiction states that "possible worlds, while they do not actually exist, may be a part of a useful discourse." The solution to life that rises out of Chiliast is, roughly, pluck the day and pick up after yourself; and there is much useful discourse and fun on the way. As one of J. T.'s exasperated neighbours tells the police, he is just what the neighbourhood needs: "an inebriated flasher who's an acrobat."

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC)

2010 Conference Preliminary Announcement

2010 CURAC CONFERENCE WILL BE AT YORK!

CURAC/ARUCC 2010 @ York

18-20/05/2010

Make a note in your calendar now – the 2010 CURAC Conference will be held at York University, May 18, 19, 20. The Conference theme will be *Pensions, Benefits and Beyond*. The program, currently under construction, is intended to be interesting and varied covering topics relevant to our retiree

members. The social events will include two receptions, two luncheons and a banquet with entertainment. There is comfortable accommodation available on the York campus and in nearby hotels. Plan to attend and take part. More information will be posted in the new year.

Publication Notice

The RALUT REPORTER is published by RALUT, (Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto), a non-profit association of retirees, near retirees, and surviving spouses/partners of the faculty and librarians of the University of Toronto. RALUT or any of its officers can be reached by post at its office at 256 McCaul Street, Toronto ON M5T 1W5

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