

AND...a letter on **The Merits of Mandatory Retirement**

In her attack on mandatory retirement, Olive Patricia Dickinson ignores a basic fact of University life. Unless salary dollars are regularly "saved" through retirements, there is insufficient money to hire young scholars. Moreover, mandatory retirement permits universities to predict the timing of these savings and thus to plan better their hiring of a new academic generation. The ending of mandatory retirement would favour the aged at the expense of both the qualified young (many of them women) and the institutions that wish to employ them.

Permanent tenure is a benefit that carries risks, which may be tolerable if only enjoyed until a certain age (in this

case 65). But if tenure were life-long, the risks would probably be intolerable. Professor Dickinson wants us to think only of those academics who age gracefully and display enhanced wisdom and maturity. What of the many exceptions to this ideal?

Anticipating these costs, universities would surely turn against the practice of permanent tenure... try to erode it, and thus undermine one of the crucial supports of academic freedom. The middle-aged faculty who run most universities would also have to spend more time policing their colleagues and less time on their history, sociology, or philosophy — not to mention their students.

I do not wish to suggest that senior academics should be unceremoniously

dumped at age 65. In fact, universities are in a better position than most institutions to handle retirement humanely. Professors on pension can and often do teach part-time, albeit for much less pay. They sometimes supervise a few graduate students and often retain institutional privileges, especially if they remain active researchers.

As our society's demographic profile has got greyer, the middle-aged have become more numerous and more powerful. But the cost, intellectually and economically, of satisfying some of their demands is excessive. Last year's ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada in favour of mandatory retirement is thus to be applauded.

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NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Brandon University reports that James M. Skinner now on study leave, received the Larry Remele Award for outstanding service to the Northern Great Plains History Conference; he is retiring in August. Gerhard Ens received a tenure-track appointment in Canadian Social and American History. Morris Mott is on sabbatical, and Andrew B. Pernal has two half sabbaticals. The department anticipates a three-year probationary appointment in world and women's history in 1993.

At **Carleton University**, Jacob Kovalio has been promoted to Associate Professor. Larry Black received the Faculty of Arts teaching award and Bruce Elliott received an award from the American Society of Local History. Brian McKillop is on leave with a Marston LaFrance

Fellowship. A university research achievement award went to Roderick Phillips. Ben-Cion Pinchuk of the University of Haifa is Visiting Professor. Aleksandra Bennett, Carman Bickerton, Robert Goheen, Naomi Griffiths, Peter King and John Taylor are on sabbatical; Paul Merkley is on teaching leave. The department welcomed the Japanese Studies Association of Canada Conference in October 1992, and of course, will be hosting the CHA annual meeting in June 1993.

Graham Carr has been promoted to Associate Professor at **Concordia**. Tenure-track appointments have been awarded to Carolyn Fick (Caribbean / Latin America / European Colonialism), Norman Ingram (Modern France / Pacifism / International Relations), and Shannon

McSheffrey (Late Medieval / Gender / Social). Philip Zachernuk has a limited-term appointment in Modern African History. Graham Carr, Frank Chalk, and Michael Mason are on sabbatical in 1992-93; Donald Ginter is on sabbatical during winter term 1993 and Rosemarie Schade was on sabbatical during fall term 1992.

At **Dalhousie**, Peter Burroughs and John Flint have retired. Cynthia Neville has been appointed to a tenure-track position in medieval history. Jack Crowley and Jane Parpart have been promoted to Professor while Stephen Brooke and Gregory Hanlon have been promoted to Associate Professor. Gregory Hanlon was awarded the Brewer Prize of the American Society for Church History for the best book manuscript in religious history. Graham Taylor is on

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