

Streaming discriminates, OCUFA report says

By NANCY PHILLIPS

The streaming of high school students occurs too early and discriminates against a large group of would-be university students, states a recent Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) report.

The report was presented to an all-party Select Committee of the Ontario Legislature on October 5. The Committee was established in February 1988 to examine the elementary and secondary school systems in Ontario and to make recommendations to the Legislature on what would be required to make the system function better.

Communications Co-ordinator Bob Kanduth said "There is an inter-relationship amongst all three levels (elementary, secondary and post-secondary) of education which is why we ended up making the presentation."

The report indicated that streaming — a process by which children are separated into different streams of education on the basis of academic ability — discriminates against children from working class and ethnic backgrounds.

"Educational streaming contributes to negative self-image and reinforces existing social inequalities," the report states. "It is ironic that the very children who have the most to gain from the attainment of higher education . . . are the ones who have the most barriers put in their way."

Kanduth said that streaming occurs as early as grade eight and added, "Who can determine whether an individual in grade eight now doesn't have the ability to go to university? This decision prohibits the option of going to university."

OCUFA does not advocate the elimination of streaming altogether but states "It is our contention that

the school system should treat every child as if he or she was destined for higher education . . . We believe this is best accomplished in a system which is flexible, sensitive to individual differences, and seeks to educate the whole person."

Kanduth said "We need as many highly educated people as possible. They also should get the best education possible."

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OCUFA also expresses concern over the problem of accessibility to university. Kanduth said that it was the policy of previous governments that every student with an average of 60 per cent or better should be able to go to an Ontario university. "This is just not happening," he said.

OCUFA is concerned "that the present government is attempting to redefine the promise of accessibility to university for all qualified students . . . We find now that the promise is not accessibility to university, but to post-secondary education (i.e. university or college)."

The Select Committee is still listening to presentations and will release a major report on the status of education in Ontario sometime in the future.

YORKDEX

Total number of people served in York's food service areas in the 1986/87 academic year: 668,762

Total number of meals served in the 1986/87 academic year: 441,782

Total Food Services Sales in 1986/87 academic year: \$5.5 million

Percentage of the \$18,255 CHRY raised during its fund-raising campaign that was pledged by members of the York community: 15

Percentage of the \$18,255 CHRY raised during its fund-raising campaign that was pledged by members of the York community not including Provost Tom Meininger's \$500 pledge: 12.3

Average pledge received by the station: \$21

Average number of minutes CHRY advertises each week: 12

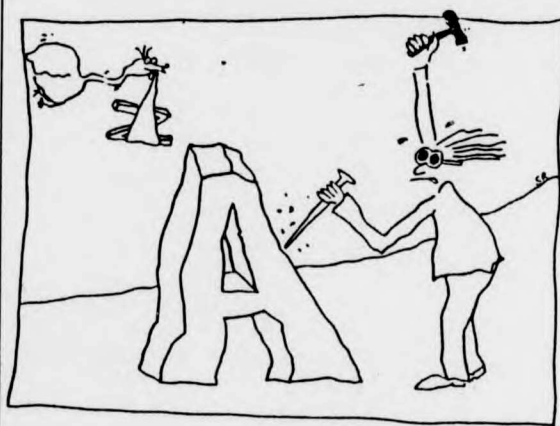
Student/faculty ratio at York: 18-1

Student/faculty ratio at U of T: 19-1

Student/faculty ratio at McMaster: 11-1

Number of cars towed from York campus from July 1/87 to June 30/88: 450

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