

York needs third campus president says

By Mike Adler

York needs a third campus to serve Toronto's growing suburbs, according to York President Harry Arthurs.

Most of Ontario's high school growth in the next 25 years will likely occur in the regions bordering Toronto.

It might be disastrous for York if another university can get to

these potential students first, Arthurs told a Senate working group last week.

"There is enormous local demand," he said, "we haven't grown as fast as the increase in

demand."

Arthurs said Markham, Oshawa and other nearby communities are "shopping" for a university.

Arthurs was careful to add the university has to be certain a new institution doesn't siphon important resources.

The working group is supposed to consider some of York's long-term goals but there is considerable pressure on the cash-starved university to establish itself in York or Durham region soon.

"Pick Markham," Atkinson College's Acting Dean Tom Meininger told Bob Drummond, the meeting's chair. "Go now and start with a low cost satellite operation."

York's Atkinson College and its education faculty have offered courses in York Region for years through a series of temporary bases, according to professor David Logan, a member of the working group. A typical base teaches a single course and has only one or two staff.

"Our idea is to get dozens of these little things and put them together," said Logan.

Although Arthurs insisted

York is not trying "to oust" any competitors he attacked one of York's possible suburban rivals. A group of investors and professionals is trying to establish a private university in Queensville, a hamlet 40 kilometres north of Toronto.

Arthurs poked fun at their right-wing reputation and said the group was "among the least worthy aspirants" to university status. He promised the Ontario government would never recognize the proposed university.

"It's dead. They will refuse to charter that university," said Arthurs.

But Al Duffy, a member of the foundation trying to get the project off the ground, said the situation is far from hopeless.

Although Duffy's still-unnamed "technical university" does not yet have the power to grant degrees, the foundation has talked to several American universities about becoming a Canadian branch plant operation.

"If degree granting power is not given by the province then you certainly can have it through Harvard, or Princeton, or Duke," said Duffy.

Fine Arts staff stages walk out

by Jennifer Lim

Twelve staff members walked out of the Phase II fine arts building on Thursday, June 6 after a work refusal was issued by the York University Staff Association.

Students, faculty and staff have been complaining about the deteriorating air quality in the building for the past few years.

"Our members felt their health and safety were being affected negatively by material that was coming out of the ventilation systems," said Jane Grant, president of YUSA.

According to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, workers are allowed to refuse to work if "the physical conditions of the work place or the part thereof in which [they] work or [are] to work is likely to endanger [them]."

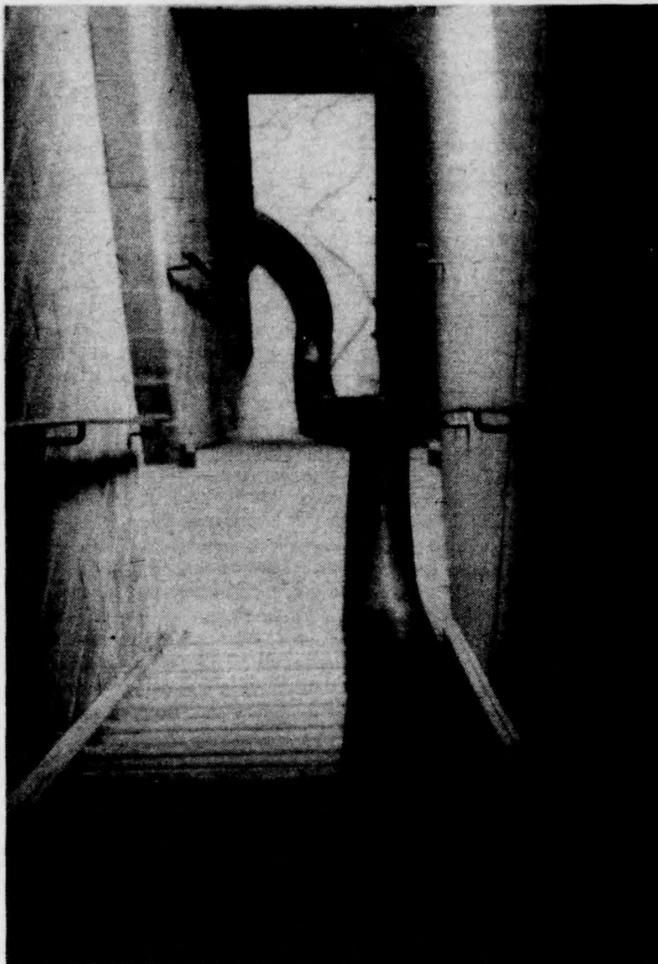
Rena Singleton, the health and safety representative for YUSA described the dust particles blown into the slide library as a drywall type dust.

On another occasion, large clouds of black, sooty dust entered the computer room from a separate air duct, according to Singleton.

There are four fan units. The first was cleaned the Wednesday following negotiations between YUSA and the Occupational Health and Safety department.

According to Grant, "there was concern that certain materials such as silica and fibreglass might be part of the dust [staff members] were breathing in."

"Samples of the dust in [a duct] were taken and the results were [favourably] well below the allowable Time Weighted Average and the Threshold Limit



Air ducts were cleaned after staff took a breather.

Values," said Kim Cavoukian, director of OHS.

Singleton said the ducts should be cleaned every 5 years, but Phase II had not been cleaned since the construction of the building.

According to Cavoukian, the staff were given the results of the tests and were back to work on Monday. The other three air ducts are scheduled to be cleaned sometime in late June.

Native studies needed

Funds won't draw Native Students

by Doug Saunders

Native students will continue to stay away from York University even if more money is spent to assist them, says one of York's two Native faculty members.

"They're not going to come unless there's a Native Studies course," said Deb MacGregor, who is teaching a McLaughlin College course in Native issues.

"They know that because these programs don't exist there won't be any support. No one wants to come to York if you're going to be one person in this huge university," MacGregor said.

"The level of ignorance of Native issues at York is really shocking sometimes," she added.

The Ontario government announced last month that they would offer \$3.1 million to improve the dismal state of Native education and support programs in universities and colleges.

York will be requesting funds to help Native students enter Osgoode Hall law school and the Faculty of Education, according to associate vice president Ross Rudolph.

York is also asking to expand the Native Theme Area, a volunteer-operated research and support centre located in the Lumbers building.

Mary Bernard, who helps run the Centre, says the funds are desperately needed if the Centre is to continue operating.

"It's the first real thing I've seen from the Ontario government that demonstrates a real commitment. I hope to heavens we get some funds—I don't quite know where we'd go from here."

But Bernard says the funding is not enough to start a Native Studies program at York.

"The university is not in a good position to fund anything—you just can't start funding anything without a permanent flow of money."

MacGregor says the funds should be used to enhance the few existing Native programs at York.

"I would think they should support somewhere where there is Native stuff happening. You can have some kind of resource centre where people can get the information if they want."

"But with 20 universities competing for so little money, you're not going to get a Trent or Lakehead-type program here."

Trent and Lakehead universities offer a variety of Native education programs, both in Native Studies faculties and within traditional disciplines.

Lakehead vice-president Kerrie Lee Clarke says her university will use the funds to improve Native-related programs in teacher training, language education and sports faculties, as well as specialized programs for Native communities.

"We're focusing on community development. Native student

know they want the skills and the education to run their own economy. We provide training in the community for basic economic and political skills."

This kind of community involvement is unlikely to happen at York even with extra funding, MacGregor says.

"Community consultation would be hard at York. I don't even know if they have somebody to do that. They'd have to hire someone."

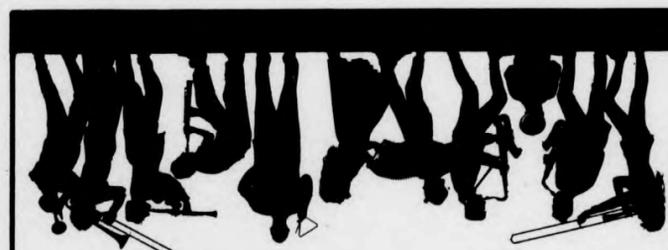
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