

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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NEW COMPUTER WILL IMPROVE ACCESS

York University will purchase a new \$400,000 computing system which will more than double the interactive computing capacity available for teaching and research, it has been announced by the Office of the President.

The recommendation to purchase the new equipment was made unanimously to President H. Ian Macdonald on Tuesday, December 4, by the President's Policy Committee, which includes all Deans of Faculties and the Vice-Presidents.

Need for Better Access

The need for better access to interactive computing has been increasingly stressed by concerned faculty members and students, including the York Computer Users Group as reported in *Excalibur*, October 4, 1979. The department of computer science in the Faculty of Arts has had to turn away applicants for admission because of insufficient computer availability, and students in both computer science and administrative studies have found it difficult to get computer time for assignments.

A number of factors inherent in York University's history and growth patterns affected the problem of adequate computing resources. With York's large concentration in the humanities and social sciences during the rapid growth of the 1960s, the future needs for computing resources were not given high priority then. Computer use in many academic departments has grown since that time, as have administrative applications.

Increased Demand

The York-Ryerson Computing Centre, a cooperative venture supported by York University and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, acquired a new ITEL A16 major computer in December 1978 to replace obsolete equipment. This unit has operated efficiently since its installation. At the same time, increased demand by York users on the DEC 10 coincided with a limitation in accessibility resulting in degradation in interactive computing service.

In response to the problem, the Presidential Advisory Committee on Computing Services (PACCS) examined the situation in consul-

tation with the department of computing services. Committee members include: professor of physics Gordon G. Shepherd, chairman; Registrar Milton A. Bider, Vice-President (Employee and Student Relations) William Farr; assistant Vice-President (Computing Services) Norman Foster; associate professor of chemistry Geoffrey Hunter; associate professor and chairman of computer science Peter H. Roosen-Runge; James R. Savary, associate professor of economics (Glendon); Vice-President (University Services) William Small; and Timothy Warner, assistant professor of management science (Administrative Studies).

48 Ports

PACCS recommended that the University acquire a new VAX 11/780 computer with 48 ports of its own "to meet the immediate and identified needs of the Faculty of Administrative Studies and the

department of computer science as primary users." The President's Policy Committee endorsed this suggestion.

Refund

The cost of the new system will be covered largely by funds made available through a refund of levies against the University by the Workmen's Compensation Board (WCB). For three years the university has set aside money to cover liabilities created by a WCB judgement assessing York University \$77,000 because of excessive claims during 1976-77. Continued unsatisfactory claims performance in the following two years resulted in further liabilities of \$225,000.

Last January the University appealed the original \$77,000 assessment on the grounds that it was instituting, through personnel services and the department of safety and security, a new safety and loss control program. The WCB agreed

to suspend collection of the \$77,000 pending a review of our new safety efforts and performance record. That review was conducted in October, 1979 and York was placed in the top performance category. The \$77,000 assessment was cancelled and York's administration is confident that continued good performance will allow the University to avoid exposure with respect to the remaining \$225,000.

Double Capacity

"In general, the VAX 11/780 will more than double the capacity of York's share of the DEC-10, providing substantial enhancement of interactive computing for members of the academic community. With 48 ports, it will ensure a measure of stability and reliability to the Faculty of Administrative Studies and the Department of Computer Science in particular, and other academic users in general," said Vice-President

Small.

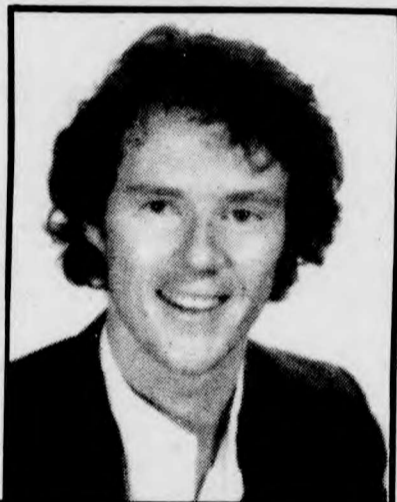
"This particular machine has a number of advantages — a long operating lifetime, it is easy to understand and use, and has the capacity for expansion if there is future need," he added.

Commenting on this decision, President Macdonald said, "When you are operating with limited financial resources, you are inevitably forced to make priority decisions among many valid claims for funding and there will understandably always be some members of the University who will be disappointed that another project was not selected in this particular instance.

"But the need here was well known across our community and the consultation was extensive. The fact that we are able to alleviate the problems in this area largely with the use of one-time-only money is extremely fortunate and will be to the ultimate benefit of students, faculty and the University as a whole."

"Couldn't Recommend a Better Experience"

STUDY ABROAD CHALLENGES OUTLOOKS



Glendon Student Paul Summerville

Why study abroad for a year? Ask Paul Summerville, fourth year political science student recently returned from Israel, or Sarit Baich, an Israeli student from the Hebrew University here at York this year for graduate work in psychology. Both are scholarship winners in the York University-Hebrew University Exchange Programme, and both have found their experience enjoyable, profitable, and stimulating, but each for very different reasons. The Newsbeat issue of January 17 will discuss Sarit's experiences; this one will concentrate on Paul.

Of his year away Paul says, "I couldn't recommend a better experience to anyone. It challenges your outlooks on things and how you relate to people. Your opinion of yourself, your society, and the whole world can change."

Minority

Leaving the protection of being white-anglo-saxon-protestant (WASP) in a WASP western society, Paul felt for the first time what it was like to be in a minority: not only was he non-Jewish, non-Arab, but the language heard everywhere on the streets wasn't his. He experienced "certain pressures to come to grips with Christianity's role in the Holocaust, and the intensity of anti-semitism." Consequently, he has come away with a keen appreciation of "the kinds of rights and moral responsibilities majorities have to minorities in the world."

"Academically the year was fabulous for me," said Paul. "Much of the material was so new." He can think of no finer place to study Biblical Interpretation, Archeology in Jerusalem, or Oil in the Middle East, and knows many of the professors to be among the best in the world. But it was the course on the Holocaust that he can't forget: at the end of the intellectual/theory/history part of the course, the professor brought in a Holocaust survivor from a neighbouring kibbutz to tell the story as an eye witness. "You just get blown away," Paul said.

Great Intensity

"Living in a country that's very poor, and without time or money to waste, you learn to do everything with great intensity," says this 21 year old student. He experienced at least two major differences between studying at an affluent North American university, and studying in Israel, where the annual inflation rate is now running 100 percent. In the first place, libraries in Israel, some open only a couple of days a week, cannot afford expensive security systems for books, nor can they finance the replacement of books that are stolen. Consequently no books are accessible and students must request any book they need. Finding this process may take as long as two hours, Paul learned to be very careful in his choice of material. To make the most of the time available he discovered he could concentrate on his studies without a break for as long as six hours at a time — an ability that has since amazed a number of his Glendon friends, he says.

Secondly, Paul found that Israeli students are much more directed in their studies than average North Americans, and tend to specialize in distinct fields much earlier. He attributes this in part to money, in that Israelis can't afford to be simply well educated generalists in a country that needs specific skills and knowledge. Another factor is age: Israeli undergraduates begin university two years later than North Americans, after completion of military

service compulsory for both men and women.

How did this non-Jewish student come to apply for and win this scholarship to study at the Hebrew University? He first heard about it in his Glendon Bible class, when Prof. Barry Olshen, who had been in Jerusalem the previous year, suggested the possibility. Paul was the only student in the class who reacted, and he hasn't looked back since. Needing to support his scholarship application with a good rationale, he responded basically, "Where better to send a political science student than the Middle East."

His year abroad flew by, but curiously each day passed slowly because it was filled with so many new experiences. "Every day is a challenge. You never know what to expect on the streets."

Richness of Contrast

In fact, it is in part the richness of contrast that Paul misses most now that he is back in Toronto. He described a possible wander away from the Mt. Scopus campus, where on foot "you could pass through the Mount of Olives, into an Arab village, where you could barter for fresh food and see riders on camels pass by; continue into the old city and stop by the Wailing Wall, an important place for Orthodox Jews; watch a basketball game on an open air court be interrupted as a flock of sheep are led through; and enter the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Sepulchre." "This does-

n't happen here," Paul says, feeling the nearness of history in the ancient land of Israel.

Many Programs

In Israel he lived comfortably, he said, with 300 to 400 North American students in residence. "Unless you made an effort it was not easy to meet and make friends with Israelis or Arabs." He talked of the many programs set up by the Hebrew University to help students feel a part of their environment: trips to a kibbutz, to the West bank, to an Israeli defence base, just to name a few, and being welcomed to celebrate holidays with a religious family in the old city. Paul did as many of these as he could, fasting, for instance, at Yom Kippur, and breaking his fast with Jews at the Wailing Wall.

This kind of sensitizing made all the difference a few weeks ago when Glendon had its annual Christmas banquet of ham and turkey. Paul experienced a newly keen appreciation of the alienation an orthodox Jew might have at such a Christian festivity in a Western country.

Where is Paul going from here? Either to China to teach English, or to Britain to study "Christian responses to the Holocaust since 1945." His experience in Israel has given him the taste "not to be satisfied staying here" and has motivated him "to try to seek out as a student whatever opportunities for travel and new experiences exist."

SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDY IN ISRAEL

January 15 is the deadline for applications for scholarships to study at the Hebrew University. Available are the Hebrew University scholarship paying tuition and room to the student selected by a York committee, and two Leonard Wolinsky Scholarships valued at \$2000 each (roughly half the cost of a year abroad in Israel).

All three scholarships are open to full-time York students, who have completed at least one full year at York. Preference is given to those currently in their second year who are concentrating in

Jewish Studies.

The Hebrew University invites non-scholarship students also to apply to study in Israel. The major requirement to be accepted is an overall B standing. Thirteen York students are currently studying at the Hebrew University.

For further information on the Year Abroad Programme, contact Prof. Michael Brown, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee for the York-Hebrew University Exchange, and coordinator of Hebrew Studies at York, in room 250 Vanier College (667-3900).

In Memoriam

This is to inform members of the York Community that Mrs. Wendy Deseck died in North Bay on November 19th. Her funeral, which was attended by a number of York University friends, took place in Strathroy, Ontario on Friday, November 23rd.

Wendy Deseck joined York University in August 1974. She originally was hired and worked for Mr. Bob Hitchman, then the Director of University Budgets, but subsequently became more closely associated with Student Services and the Office of Mr. John Becker, Assistant Vice-President, Student Services. In September of 1978, shortly after she and her husband, Steve, had purchased a home in Newmarket, she took maternity leave and a young son, Justin, was born in the early fall. She returned to work in January 1979 but resigned in June when her husband's work necessitated a transfer to North Bay, Ontario.