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US universities are better funded: COU

By NANCY PHILLIPS

American universities are "substantially better funded than universities in Ontario," states a report by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).

Financing Universities in North America: Can Ontario Universities Compete? compares the amount of money spent on each full-time student in about 250 American institutions and 10 Ontario universities in 1985-86.

York and COU President Harry Arthurs said that comparisons with other Canadian universities are done every year, but that this "pioneering comparison across the border" was made because Ontario is competing with American universities. Arthurs said the COU "is trying to persuade the government that Ontario universities are, as a whole, underfunded. The government is kidding itself if it thinks that it is funding us properly. We're struggling very hard to give students the best possible education."

The findings show that public US universities have received 35 per cent or \$2,450 (Can.) more per full-time student from their state governments than Ontario institutions received from the provincial government.

The report states that the American federal government granted 90 per cent or \$1,300 more per full-time student to public institutions, and 260 per cent or \$3,900 more to private universities than Ontario universities received from its own federal government.

"Academic support (libraries, museums, academic computing, and academic administration) expenditure levels were significantly higher in US institutions," according to the report, with 110 per cent or \$990 more spent per full-time student at public and private institutions combined.

Arthurs said, "the money is clearly there, but the government has other priorities. Universities have been going down as a provincial priority consistently over the past 15 years. Until a year or two ago, Ontario was actually getting less than any other province. Now we're half-way up the scale."

York fared worse than other Ontario universities. It ranked lowest of 10 institutions on total money spent per full-time student, with \$8,495 compared to \$14,658 at the University of Toronto, and \$13,095 at Waterloo.

New protection from chemical hazards

By MARTIN HYDE and NANCY PHILLIPS

York community members working with hazardous biological and chemical agents will be protected by new federal legislation starting October 31.

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) will require hazardous material suppliers across Canada to provide comprehensive labelling, Material Safety Data Sheets that list the chemicals and concentrations of dangerous substances, and first aid measures.

According to the legislation, employers must also train workers and supervisors who use these substances.

A computer system is being developed by the Department of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) and Academic Computing to comply with the WHMIS stipulation that all information regarding hazardous material be made available to workers. Director of DOHS

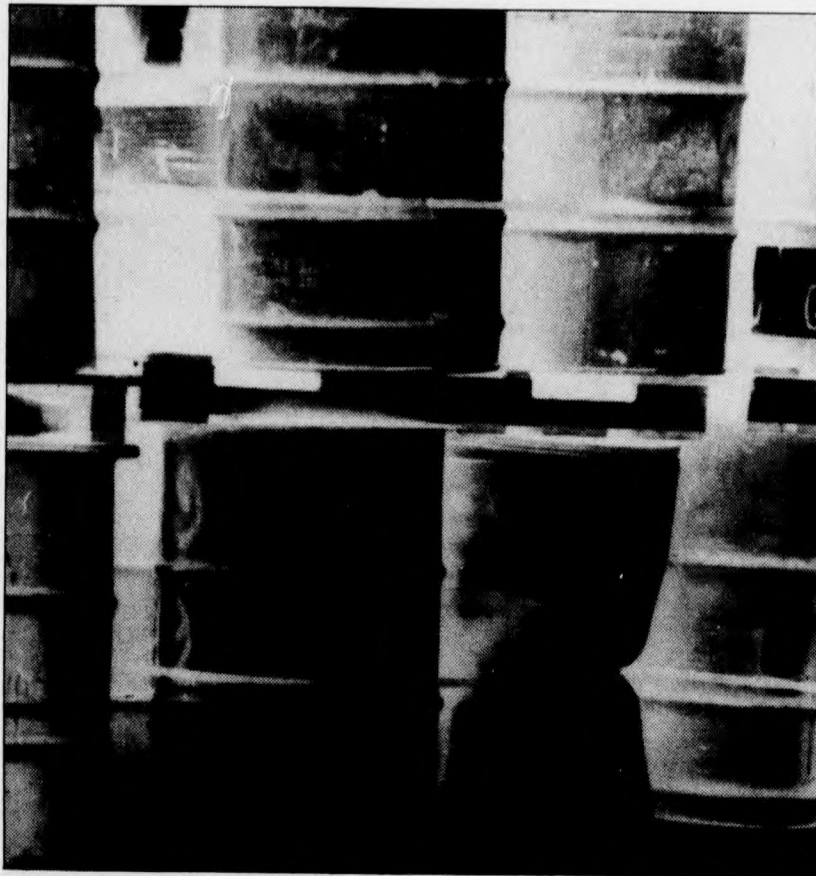
David Kurosky said the system will be geared toward continuing education, as a supplement to training sessions.

"York will have the best system in the province. The application of this in all other institutional environments will be tremendous. Anyone will be able to access information very easily," he said.

Ken Thomson, Chairman of the Science Buildings Joint Health and Safety Committee, said that implementing WHMIS will be a lot of work.

"Our concern is that when you mix chemical compounds you invent something new. How do you go about labelling that?" He added that in a factory you deal with a few chemicals in large quantity, but in a laboratory, "we use a large variety of things in small quantity," which also increases the difficulty of labelling.

Chemical Control Officer Richard Grundsten said that there have never been any serious incidents on campus involving hazardous materials.



YORK community members working with hazardous biological and chemical agents will be protected by new federal legislation.

COU tours high schools

By FARHAD DESAI

Members of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) toured Ontario high schools last week to answer questions and clear up myths about entrance requirements for Ontario universities.

The COU, a lobby group made up of Ontario university presidents and one elected member from each university, deals with the needs of Ontario universities.

"There was a record number of first-year students this year," said COU Director of Communications Will Sayers. He said that one purpose of the tour was for the COU to find out how future applicants feel about getting into university.

Sayers was concerned that high school students were getting distorted information about university from past university students. He said, "sometimes they see the tuition at a higher cost than it really is."

The group of Ontario university presidents visited eight high schools across the province, including Jarvis Collegiate Institute — the only Toronto stop. Jarvis Principal David Wells said that students asked questions about class sizes, tuition, admission requirements, and safety for women.

A *Globe and Mail* article on October 20 stated that Jarvis Collegiate students wanted to go outside Ontario for post-secondary studies. Wells felt the *Globe* distorted the situation by basing the story on the views of "two or three students." Most Jarvis students, he said, want to attend Ontario universities.

"It was just one thing that happened to catch the reporter's attention," said York and COU President Harry Arthurs. Most of (the Jarvis Students) would be prepared to pay higher tuition if it meant that the quality of education would increase, Arthurs added.

Serving the mature student

By DIONNE HARDING

"There are over 7,000 mature day students at York, and YAMS is here to serve them," said Poul Nielsen, President of the York Association of Mature Students.

Mature students are 21 years or older and have been out of school for two years or more.

YAMS was founded in 1980 to help mature students adjust to university life. Mature students have limited time to socialize and make new friends, as they usually have added responsibilities such as full-time careers or families, said Past Vice-President John Sadore. YAMS helps mature students develop a sense of belonging to the York community.

Nielsen believes that advertising has not made people aware that the club exists, as mature students may have a hard time becoming "school-oriented." He said that YAMS offers "a lot of informal support. We can recommend babysitting services, apartments, and some administrative and academic advising."

YAMS also provides music, reasonably priced beverages and a phone system for emergency calls. It holds wine and cheese receptions, and "meet-your-academic-adviser" sessions.

YAMS has even helped people of retirement age adjust to university.

One of Nielsen's concerns is that there is little space allotted to the club in the Student Centre. "There are over 300 people registered at YAMS," he said. He is afraid there won't be enough room for everyone.

YAMS is a registered club and is open to all students. It is located at 138 and 139 Winters, extension 3546.