

Arthurs to chair financial task force

By SUSAN SPERLING

The Council of Ontario Universities (COU), a board comprised of Ontario university presidents and academics, recently appointed York President Harry Arthurs to chair a financial task force.

The task force, one of three new COU committees, is concerned with the allocation of government funds amongst the 15 universities in Ontario.

According to Arthurs, COU started the task force in response to two recent developments. Historically, due to the increasing scarcity of resources, the universities have become concerned that any given act by the government would benefit one university over another. Consequently, each institution tried individually to persuade the government

to act in a certain way. This had the effect of deterring from the collective strength of COU.

Recently, however, new presidents have come into power at half of the universities, so that the people who now sit around the table don't have the same history of disappointment as in the past.

As well, "the (financial) situation has bottomed out," Arthurs said, adding "it's gotten as low as it could get, so now there is some optimism, and optimism generates co-operation."

Co-operation when facing the government is necessary because "the fate of all universities is tied up with government decision making," Arthurs said.

This move toward a unified voice among universities co-incides with

the arrival of Greg Sorbara as the Liberal Minister of Colleges and Universities. According to Arthurs, Sorbara is very interested in having good relations with the universities, and is committed to doing as much as he can to improve their positions. The minister wants as much advice as he can get from the institutions as to what should be done and how.

Arthurs' task force will advise Sorbara by creating formulas for the distribution of operating grants and special funding programs. The committee will also try to develop agreed positions amongst the universities about financial issues.

At present, the task force is especially busy because of the ministry's announcement last week of a \$50 million excellence fund. The fund is to be divided into three parts: \$25 million will go to libraries and instructional equipment; \$15 million will support capital intensive (hi-tech) research; the final \$10 million will go toward faculty renewal i.e. providing teaching opportunities for young people who weren't hired over the last several years and increasing the percentage of women teaching at Ontario universities.

The COU task force is technically working to come up with models for the allocation of the fund. When that has been completed, they will go to the government with the formula. The government will then seek the advice of the Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA), a body of citizens that advises government on policies relating to universities.

Arthurs told *Excalibur* that he believes that universities "won't gain a lot from the excellence fund, as it is a one-year only fund." He added that it is "a new government, and they're not quite sure what they can afford yet."

Arthurs said that while Sorbara has made no promises, he told the task force that this (the excellence fund) should be regarded as a sort of first installment.

There will be more news on the funding situation when the provincial budget is announced this week. "I remain optimistic," Arthurs said.

Asbestos removal to begin by end of this year

By ANDREW DAVIS

A three-phase plan has been developed to deal with the asbestos-coated girders of the Osgoode Hall Law School.

"The problem has been contained for several months now," said Patrick Ramlall of Safety and Security Services. "The funding has come in and the asbestos will be removed," he added. The first phase begins on December 20 and concludes on January 13.

Early last year, Martin Zarnett, then a student representative on the Board of Governors (BOG), was concerned that the problem wasn't being taken seriously enough. He criticized then Vice President George Bell for advising BOG members that there wasn't a great rush to do something about the problem.

At that time, the University had already implemented a plan to identify exposure levels, observe asbestos insulation deterioration, and minimize contamination risks until funding became available for removal.

"A control program is in effect at Osgoode," Ramlall said. Precautionary

procedures are taken when entering the ceiling area: the area is secured with plastic, signs are posted, and workers wear special disposable garments for head and face protection.

Provincial regulations stipulate that airborne asbestos concentrations should not exceed 0.5 fibres/cm³. Air sampling tests taken by Concorde Scientific Corporation on April 10, 1985, revealed that concentration levels did not exceed 0.010 fibres/cc. "The stuff is not dangerous when it's just sitting there," said BOG student representative Chris Costello. "It's just (dangerous) when it's disturbed."

"The problem has to be dealt with now," Ramlall said. "If it's put off any longer the asbestos removal costs could exceed the construction cost of the building itself."

The estimated cost of the first phase is \$190,000. "There is very little asbestos left in other buildings at York. Osgoode is the last," said Michael London, project manager of the Physical Plant. "We're very fortunate that most of our buildings are built of reinforced con-

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THE PLANE TRUTH: York science prof Daphne Schiff makes her annual landing just south of Parking Lot "J." This year, Schiff is wearing a Cessna 172, a four-seat, single-engine item.

ROBERTA DI MAIO

First ever student conduct report submitted to president

By SHELLEY WEISFELD

A report outlining student conduct has been composed and submitted in draft form to York President Harry Arthurs. After 25 years Arthurs said that "we have reached the point where there is need to consolidate, clarify and update our arrangements for dealing with these matters."

Master of Stong College Hedi Bouraoui, solicitor Brian Telran and student Ken McDonald, have provided a "proposed new model for student discipline. He stated that up until now there has been no common agreement of conduct procedures between the colleges. Every college has their own way of dealing with

disciplinary actions, said Bouraoui. With a reference in document form, Bouraoui hopes that proceedings will be "more judicial and legal."

Bouraoui said that over the past two years the committee has gathered information from other universities in helping to establish a "diverse system that will be homogenous to our University." The board's main concern is that the enormous size of York has contributed to the lack of structure within the colleges disciplinary roles.

The report which is presently in draft form will be discussed by Arthurs and the University community over the next two months.

SCIENCE

York science professors revolutionizing environmental remote sensing methods

By GISELE WINTON

York professors and members of the organization PhD Associates are revolutionizing the traditional methods of environmental sensing, such as radar with satellite based passive microwave remote sensing of ice, water and land.

Rene O. Ramseier, PhD Associate member and senior scientist of Atmospheric Environment Service in Ottawa, told the audience of the eighth annual Winters/Vanier Science Symposium last Thursday that "we are at the forefront of knowledge in this area."

Passive microwave remote sensing provides almost continuous capability of observing the earth's surface. Traditional infrared sensing cannot collect data through cloud cover, while microwave sensing can. Clouds absorb infrared radiation, whereas the microwaves in the region of interest (wave length equals 8 millimeters) are not absorbed by clouds. A great portion of Canada is continuously covered with clouds. The passive microwave sensor is superior to that of the infrared because it can be used in all-weather environments. It can also measure the following properties: wind speed, wave height, cloud cover and rain rate. The more data points that are collected the more accurate the information.

A satellite based radiometer—a device that measures the natural

energy emitted by the earth's surface collects the data. The emissivity of ice, land and water is used as a constant in algorithms developed at York to compute the ice concentration and the wind speed in the Labrador River. The technique can be used globally.

Water has high emissivity while land and ice have low emissivity. Also, as ice ages, the emissivity decreases, Ramseier said. The thickness of ice can be calculated from the brightness temperature (relative intensity) and the emissivity of the ice. "This has important applications to shipping," Ramseier said.

From the calculated wind speed the wave height can be ascertained, and this has important marine applications. Conventional wind speed calculations are taken from ships from a height above the water. Passive microwave sensing measures the wind speed at the ocean's surface enabling a more comprehensive measurement.

Applications of wind data collected include improvement in marine forecast on the west and east coasts of Canada, and an improvement of one day weather reports. Tracking of severe storms would be greatly improved. Presently, only a handful of data points is collected from ship reports. With microwave sensing up to 4,000, data points can be collected and plotted.

Microwave remote sensing can

accurately detail ice information and track the hemisphere and global ice extent in climate models.

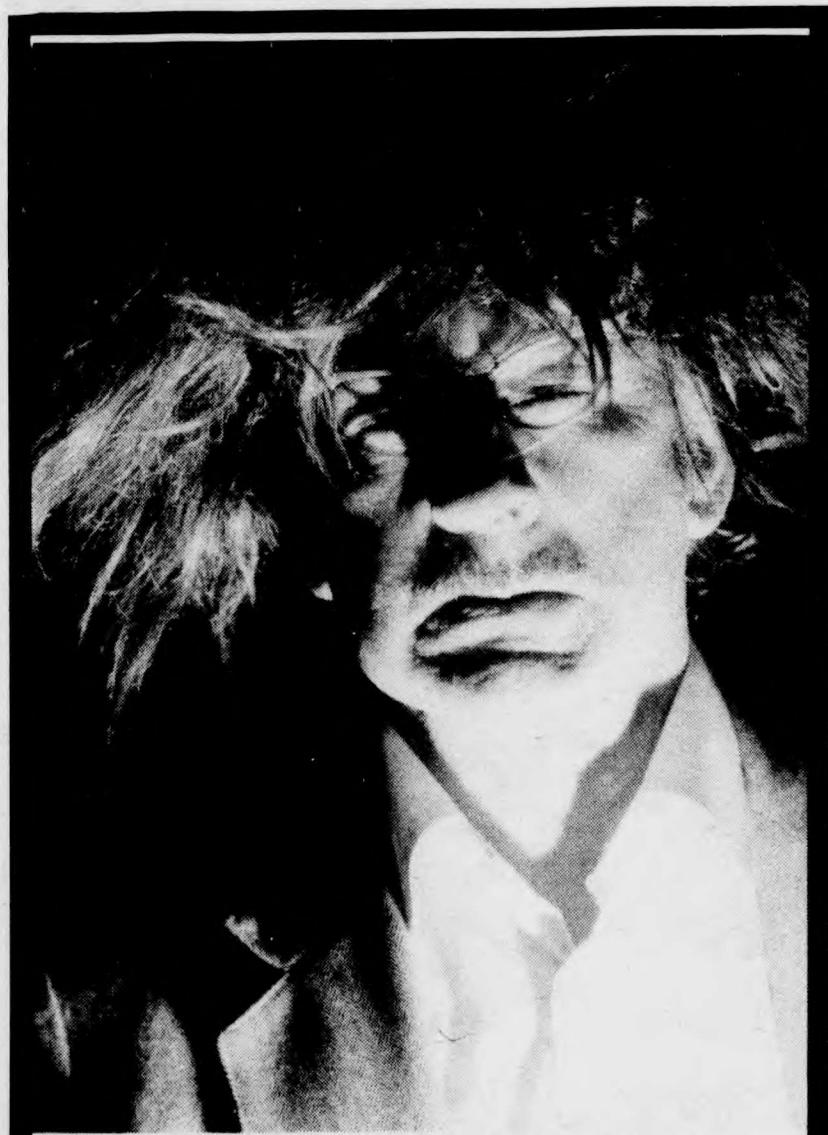
"It takes four hours from the time we get the data from the U.S. Navy Fleet Numeric Oceanographic Centre to give it to the users: the Atmospheric Environment Service and Meteorological Services world wide.

"This takes a long time, but ice does not move fast," Ramseier said. The process entails the receiving of the data which is then processed on York's microcomputer to clear the files, print data, and plot maps. Map plotting is a difficult procedure. "You have to be rather clever to discern the effects of cloud edges, wind effects and ice edges, to get what you want: the total ice concentration and the ice fraction," Ramseier said. It takes 90 seconds to transmit the map to the ship by communication satellite.

Ramseier and his associates also compare their satellite data with the data received from ground base sources. The data from the U.S. Navy Fleet Numeric Centre must be processed at PhD Associates on the York campus before it can be sent out as a wind map to users.

Visual helicopter observations are also used. Each data source gives a slightly different picture of ice edges.

A new U.S. navy satellite is expected to be launched in June, 1986. It will have enhanced capability over the NIMBUS 7 Satellite.



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