

High-tech puts new emphasis on university education

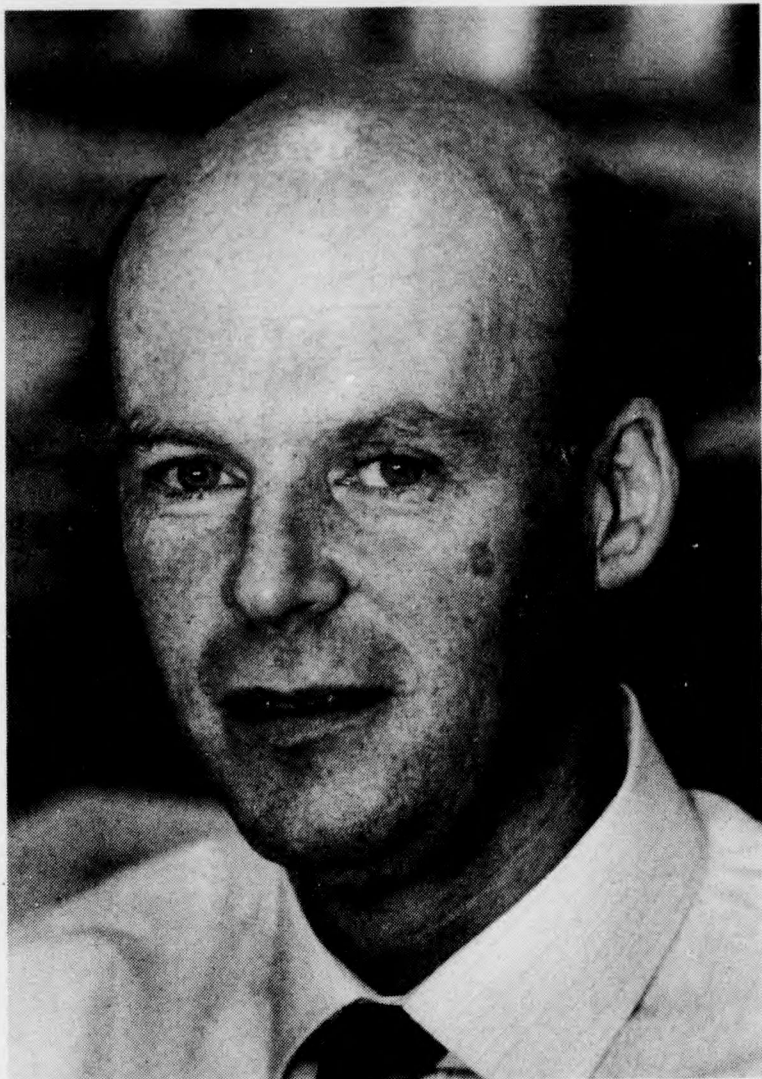
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Last summer, Duley organized the First Canadian Conference on Laser Processing in Quebec. At the conference, attended by 200 delegates, it was revealed that the world's first completely automated robotic system for welding car parts had been invented.

Duley doesn't feel that laser processing will oust labourers from their jobs. "High-tech developments probably lead to many more new and better jobs than the ones they replace," he explained. "They add to the quality of the workplace: a spray-paint gun operator could now operate a machine that would do the same task."

This, however, puts a new emphasis on post-secondary education, according to Duley. In the future, the job outlook for those without a college or university education could be bleak, he said.

In reference to the possibility of York's laser research being used in military or space programs, Duley said, "Although our work is restricted to laser processing for the automotive industry, I can't predict the outcome of our research in terms of all that could be done with it. No doubt lasers will be used for the space station that will be built cooperatively by the United States, Canada, and several other Western countries." (Although the Canadian government has refused to take part in U.S. President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) programme, it has allowed private corporations to be solicited for contracts involv-



YORK'S LASER MAN: Walt Duley is a York Physics professor and director of the Laser Processing Laboratory, which has attracted financial backing from GM for research into new industrial applications.

ing "Star Wars" research).

Duley also refuted the notion that private funding could divert the course of the research being done at York. "There is always a compromise, but usually in our favour," he

said. "If a company comes to us requesting research, it must be related to what we are interested in. If the requested research doesn't contribute to the academic pursuit of knowledge, then we won't do it."

'Diversity can be maintained if colleges are distinctive'

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allowed to take away from the diversity which the college system can offer. Olson claimed that this diversity can be maintained if distinctions are planned into each college giving each a different area of emphasis (such as sports, social, and intellectual).

Hare responded to Olson by saying that he believes these distinctions do not have to be preset, but can develop within the college system naturally. Hare agreed with Olson's contentions about financing and pointed out that many of York's centralization measures go back to Queen's Park funding procedures, forcing York to make most financial decisions within a centralized framework.

Hare explained that accommodating accountancy methods of the provincial government is just one of the central causes which has forced York to reassess the roles of colleges

within the University system.

Wilson responded to Hare by noting that even though centralization may be more cost efficient, it still impedes on the amount of student participation in college activities. "Many times, colleges have no jurisdiction in setting classroom schedules" or timetables for other college facilities, explained Wilson. "This puts colleges in a bind," he said, noting that it impedes on the variety of activities colleges can offer to their student members.

Hare hopes to deliver the report to the President's office by the beginning of the summer, for he feels the college issue "is urgent and must be resolved as soon as possible."

Next week Hare will be conducting hearings with former college masters, college student council presidents, Administration representatives, and the Council of College Masters.

'Hands around Tait' planned to protest proposed intra-mural fee increase

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Physical Education department towards Recreation York—they don't consider it important enough to commit money to maintain the organization."

Jill Shibou, chairperson of Stong College, approached the issue from another angle. She said that "what we want to get across to the Administration is that if we delete Recreation York from student life, they are basically closing doors to possible financial input at a later date." Shibou added "that the more they ask

from the student and the less they give destroys the chances of getting contributions from graduates at a later date (which) further undermines the image of the school in general."

Shibou and Christie are organizing a protest against the Physical Education administration policies. The date for the protest is tentatively set for March 18. Shibou noted "that we want them to know how we feel before they decide—we want to influence their decision, not react to it."

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